
PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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Abstract: *IN THIS ARTICLE, THE LITERATURE ON THE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY FACTORS IS ANALYSED. IT IS FOUND THAT DELINQUENCY HAS MULTIPLE CAUSES. SOME AUTHORS CONSIDER THE INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS TO BE CAUSES OF DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR, OTHERS FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS. THE TRANSACTIONAL MO-DELINQUENCY IN THE EXPLANATION OF DELINQUENCY IS ALSO GIVEN GREAT ATTENTION IN THE LITERATURE OF SPECIALTY. IN OUR RESEARCH IT WAS PROPOSED AS THE PURPOSE TO DEVELOP THE PERSONALITY PROFILE OF THE JUVENILE DELINQUENT, IN THE PROBATION SYSTEM AND THE JUVENILE DELINQUENT IN DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY, IN THE JUVENILE PENITENTIARY. FOR THIS PURPOSE, TWO PERSONALITY QUESTIONNAIRES ARE USED: PERSONALITY QUESTIONNAIRE 16 PF CATTELL AND PERSONALITY QUESTIONNAIRE FPI (F. FAHRENBERG, H. SELG, R. HAMPEL). COMPARE THE SCORES OBTAINED IN SUBJECTS IN EXPERIMENTAL PLACES: NORMATIVE BEHAVIOUR AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR (PROBATION AND PENITENTIARY). THE PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS ARE DESCRIBED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING STRUCTURE: COMMUNICATIVE AND INTERPERSONAL PECULIARITIES, INTELLECTUAL PHATICITIES, EMOTIONAL-VOLITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS, PECULIARITIES OF SELF-CONTROL AND SELF-REGULATION OF BEHAVIOUR.*

Keywords: DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR; PERSONALITY FACTORS; CAUSES OF DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR; PERSONALITY PROFILE.

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INTRODUCTION

Precarious conditions, moral-spiritual devaluation, instability, and mistrust in the future severely affect the formation/development of the human personality, causing conflicts in adapting and accepting social norms and values. In this context, especially after COVID-19, the phenomenon of delinquency is growing, especially influencing minors, due to limited social experience, contradictions of the mechanism of social control, minimization of the family educational role (orientation toward the means of existence, increase of the number of disorganized families), failure to engage in social-useful activities, inefficient leisure planning, etc.

Juvenile delinquency is a significant problem for many countries around the world. This phenomenon is of great concern for the Republic of Moldova as well. Statistics on the involvement of minors in crimes are relevant. According to the data published on the website of the National Bureau of Statistics, during COVID-19, the total number of children who committed crimes in 2021 amounted to 1163 children. Almost every third child is 14-15 years old and almost every second child is 16-17 years old. As for the distribution of convicted children, 44% were convicted for theft (in 2020 – 37%), for hooliganism – 12% (in 2020 – 14%), for robbery and robbery – 12% (in 2020 – 6%) (, for rape – 2%, (in 2020 – 4%), for drug-related crimes – 2% (in 2020 – 3%), and for other crimes – 28% (in 2020 – 36%). The number of crimes committed by minors is increasing compared to the previous year by 14.7%. In 2021, 695 (in 2020 – 606) crimes committed by minors or with their participation were registered. The share of crimes committed by minors in the total number of crimes is 2.6% (in 2020 – 2.3%) [1].

The problem of juvenile delinquency has been devoted to many scientific papers; however, its actuality does not decrease, on the contrary it increases. In the current context, the issue of delinquent behaviour is extremely important and relevant, given the global crisis of our society.

Delinquent behaviour is based on multiple causes. Some authors believe that certain *individual characteristics* of minors may increase the risk of being vulnerable to risk factors that subsequently increase the likelihood of developing antisocial behaviour. Thus, the authors J. E. Bates, C. A. Maslin, K. A. Frankel [2], P. J. Frick [3] considers that difficult temperament in childhood is a predictive factor for antisocial behaviour and subsequent delinquency. Authors L. F. Katz and J. M. Gottman [4] attributes problems of emotional self-regulation, inability to inhibit one's own impulses, self-calming or concentration of attention risk factors for the development of antisocial behaviour.

Some authors, such as A. K. Liau, A. Q. Barriga, J. C. Gibbs, J. R. Landau, have established a link between cognitive distortions and the antisocial behaviour of minors, because cognitive distortions allow individuals to rationalize certain attitudes, beliefs, or thoughts, and this frequently leads to problematic emotions and behaviours. The way an individual interprets a situation or experience contributes to his or her emotional or behavioural reaction to the situation or experience [5].

The analysis of the literature allows us to highlight another category of factors, namely, *those of the environment*. Environmental variables that are sources for delinquent behaviour can be: anomia, lack of social control, social disorganization, negative environments, poverty, disorganized environments, etc.



In explaining the causes of delinquent behaviour comes the *transactional model*. The family [6], the group of peers [7, 8, 9] and the school [10] are the three key situations in which the processes of social interaction that can contribute to the development of antisocial behaviour are carried out.

For the correction of the behaviour of minors and their rehabilitation, professionals use various strategies. In all countries, the practice of deprivation of liberty of offenders is widely used. Juvenile offenders are detained in penitentiary institutions for minors. From the application of the prison sentence for minors, it is expected that following specialized activities and interventions in the penitentiary to develop psycho-moral, spiritual, and social, the minor will not commit other crimes after release, will integrate effectively into the family, community, educational institution, etc. and will respect the social norms established by the community.

The custodial sentence shall apply to minors who have committed particularly serious or exceptionally serious crimes and to minors who relapse.

But deprivation of liberty has many disadvantages, producing many losses, costs, both materially and emotionally, physically, socially.

Alternatives to detention are much more effective for the rehabilitation of minors who have committed crimes. One of these alternatives is probation.

The probation system includes minors who committed mild or less serious crimes, those who are at the first crime, but also those who are at the presentential stage.

Young people in detention benefit from psychological, social, and educational assistance. The assistance provided to them is aimed at preparing delinquent minors for the return to society by training them skills, attitudes that facilitate the reintegration into society after the execution of the sentence of deprivation of liberty. Prison education and development programs must be an important means of facilitating the return of the prisoner to society. When developing these programs, the individual and age characteristics of minors must be considered. Therefore, the assessment of the personality profile of the minor who committed crimes and is in detention would serve as an important support for specialists (social workers, psychologists, sector heads) in the penitentiary system in the elaboration of assistance programs. Prison care programs must be based mainly on internal factors - the intellectual, emotional and personality potential of the juvenile delinquent, so that these factors become protective to prevent relapse.

In the probation system, there are also programs for resocialization, re-education of minors, but they are not always based on the analysis of the personality characteristics of minors. The programs provide more for the restoration of the minor's relationships with the family, the integration of minors into school, etc. The focus is on external factors. But knowing the personality profile of the minor in probation, highlighting the personality characteristics that have predisposed the minor to committing the crime could facilitate the development of assistance programs to diminish these characteristics and the development/formation of those personality traits that would serve as protective factors for the repeated commission of the crime.

That is why in our research we aim to develop the personality profile of the juvenile delinquent in the probation system and the juvenile delinquent in the prison environment to be able to use this empirical data in developing recommendations for professionals regarding the structure and content of intervention programs, During the COVID-19 period.

Even though there is research in the literature that studies the personality peculiarities of delinquent minors, they focus only on some peculiarities. Research to study a multitude of personality factors in juvenile offenders in the probation system and minors in the prison environment is modest and practically does not exist.

The study aims to answer the following 2 research questions:

1. *What are the personality traits of delinquent minors in the probation system during COVID-19?*

2. What are the personality traits of delinquent minors in the prison environment during COVID-19?

The major contribution of this study is the investigation of sixteen personality factors of minors in the probation system, so the study aims to have an overview of the factors influencing the behaviour of minors.

Also, a valuable contribution is the investigation of twelve personality traits of minors in the prison system.

Research objectives: 1. highlighting the personality traits that characterize the delinquent minor in the probation system and the delinquent minor in the prison environment; 2. assess the degree/level at which each personality trait is developed and highlight those that need to be improved.

The hypothesis we assumed at the initial stage of the research is: The personality profile of delinquent minors differs from that of minors with normative behaviour.

To achieve the purpose of the research we used the questionnaire of the 16 personality factors (16 PF Cattell). This questionnaire was applied to juvenile delinquents in the probation system.

The study of personality had as main objectives to find and explain the main individual differences between the subjects in relation to their behaviour, based on the measurement of different traits.

The 16 PF questionnaire is one of the most well-known and widely used personality measurement tools. Created by Raymond Cattell based on factorial criteria, this evaluation tool has the main function of studying and evaluating personality traits based on different factors.

The factors mentioned are bipolar, that is, they go on a continuum that goes from one extreme of the trait to the other, placing the score of the person evaluated at a given time in that continuum.

The questionnaire consists of 187 items (questions) that aim to highlight 16 personality traits (first-order personality factors) plus 4 second-order personality factors obtained from the first by calculation.

The questions are formulated in such a way as to allow for three answers (affirmative, negative, indecisive), except for factor B, which requires a single answer, the correct one.

The 16 personality factors targeted have an unequal number of items (between 13 and 26) depending on the complexity and difficulty of being surprised by the way they are formulated. In other words, certain more complex and difficult personality traits require a greater number of questions from different perspectives. Each item of the questionnaire quotes for a single personality factor. All items have the same weight, which is a result of the author's factorial analysis.

The questionnaire measures the following factors:

Factor A: Schizotimya vs. cyclothymia; factor B: Intelligence; factor C: Emotional instability vs. emotional stability; Factor E: Submission vs. dominance; factor F: Restraint vs. expansiveness; factor G: Ego force – submission of feelings vs. high normalization of behaviour; factor H: Prudence vs. boldness; factor I: Masculinity vs. femininity; Factor L: Sincerity vs. jealousy; factor M: Conformism vs. nonconformity; factor N: Naivety vs. clairvoyance; Factor O: Self-confidence vs. anxiety; factor Q1: Conservatism vs. radicalism; factor Q2: Dependence vs. independence; factor Q3: High self-control vs. low self-control; factor Q4: Relaxation vs. strain.

To process the results obtained, the subjects' responses are compared with the key. For answers a) and c) that correspond to the key, 2 points are awarded, and for answers b) that correspond to the key – 1 point.

Then the results obtained at each factor turn into standard values.

Table 2.3. Interpretation of the standard values in Questionnaire 16 PF Cattell

Standard values



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Low Level			Medium Level			High Level			

When interpreting the results obtained with the 16 PF Cattell questionnaire, it is advisable to analyse the totality of the factors in their relationships in such blocks, for example:

- Communicative and interpersonal characteristics: Factors A, H, F, E, Q2, N, L.- Intellectual peculiarities: Factors B, M, Q1.
- Emotional-volitive characteristics: Factors C, I, O, Q4.
- The peculiarities of self-control and self-regulation of behaviour: Factors G, Q3.

The research also used the FPI personality questionnaire (F. Fahrenberg, H. Selg, R. Hampel). The questionnaire was applied to minors in the prison.

The FPI questionnaire is intended for the diagnosis of personality states and attributes in the process of social adaptation and behavioural regulation of people starting at the age of 13.

The FPI questionnaire contains 9 basic scales at which, to get a more complete picture of the personality of the investigated person, the authors added 3 additional scales.

Form B of the questionnaire contains 114 items and is administered in groups or individually (without time limit) to people with medium educational level and intellectual development, able to capture the significance of the items.

The subjects choose one of the answers: “Yes” or “no”. Then the raw results turn into standard values. The interpretation of the obtained results is performed according to the standard values: 1-3 – low values; 4-6 – medium values; 7-9 – high values.

The questionnaire has the following scales: Scale I (nervousness), scale II (spontaneous aggressiveness), scale III (depression), scale IV (emotivity), scale V (sociability), scale VI (calm character), scale VII (domination), scale VIII (inhibition), scale IX (open fire), scale X (emotional scalability), introversion X (masculinity).

A total of 351 questionnaires were completed in the current study. The questionnaire scores were analysed statistically, and the software SPSS 27.0 was used for detailed analysis. To achieve the objectives of the research and verify the hypothesis assumed at the beginning of the research, we used the independent-samples t test. The t-test procedure for independent samples compares the averages of two groups of cases and automates the calculation of the t-test effect size. For each variable, the sample size, average, standard deviation, and standard mean error and estimate of effect size for test t. We conducted this test to determine if two population averages were different. It is an inferential statistical hypothesis test, that is, it uses samples to draw conclusions about populations. The null hypothesis for this test is that the averages to personality factors for the two populations are equal. And the alternative hypothesis is that the averages for the two populations are not equal. If the value p is less than the significance level (e.g., 0.05), the null hypothesis is rejected and the difference between the two averages is statistically significant. Independent-samples t test was used to estimate the statistical differences between the results of the 16 PF Cattell questionnaire obtained by subjects with normative behaviour (140 subjects) and those with delinquent behaviour on probation (140 subjects). We also used the U-Mann-Whitney test for independent samples to compare groups two by two in pairs, thus identifying their exact hierarchy. This test was used to calculate the statistical differences between the results obtained at the FPI questionnaire by subjects with delinquent behaviour in the penitentiary (23 subjects) and subjects with normative behaviour (48 subjects).



3. RESULTS

3.1. Research results at the Personality Questionnaire 16 PF Cattell

In the table below we present the descriptive statistics for the group of subjects with delinquent behaviour.

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of personality factors in minors with delinquent behaviour (Questionnaire 16 PF Cattell)

Descriptive Statistics									
Factor	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
A	140	1	8	2.57	1.676	1.400	.205	1.969	.407
B	140	1	10	3.92	2.348	.630	.205	-.114	.407
C	140	1	10	4.45	2.361	.373	.205	-.741	.407
E	140	2	10	6.89	1.953	-.025	.205	-.799	.407
F	140	0	10	6.10	2.173	-.570	.205	.841	.407
G	140	2	10	5.40	2.048	-.306	.205	-.654	.407
H	140	1	10	4.36	2.060	.065	.205	-.692	.407
I	140	1	10	4.24	2.344	.325	.205	-.676	.407
L	140	1	10	7.47	2.229	-1.064	.205	.538	.407
M	140	1	10	5.11	2.332	-.121	.205	-.519	.407
N	140	1	10	5.91	1.885	-.191	.205	-.268	.407
O	140	1	10	6.89	2.481	-.312	.205	-.854	.407
Q1	140	1	10	4.57	2.363	-.013	.205	-.899	.407
Q2	140	1	10	5.21	2.434	-.093	.205	-.831	.407
Q3	140	1	10	5.91	2.237	-.273	.205	-.533	.407
Q4	140	1	10	5.34	2.017	-.101	.205	-.076	.407

In the table are inserted the results obtained on personality factors by the 140 subjects with delinquent behaviours, who are in the probation system. For each variable, the minimum value and the maximum value obtained by the subjects in this experimental group are given. The average value per group is also calculated for each variable in this research method.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of personality factors in minors with normative behaviour (Questionnaire 16 PF Cattell)

Descriptive Statistics									
Factor	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error

A	140	1	10	3.76	2.151	1.340	.205	1.413	.407
B	140	1	9	3.86	2.113	1.370	.205	.654	.407
C	140	1	10	5.14	2.308	.445	.205	-.559	.407
E	140	2	10	6.84	1.909	-.112	.205	-.849	.407
F	140	1	10	6.93	2.066	-.251	.205	-.558	.407
G	140	2	10	6.29	2.046	.407	.205	-.379	.407
H	140	2	10	5.33	2.174	.400	.205	-.670	.407
I	140	1	10	4.14	1.880	1.043	.205	.580	.407
L	140	3	10	7.58	2.025	-.880	.205	.057	.407
M	140	2	10	5.41	1.847	.595	.205	.366	.407
N	140	3	10	7.52	1.825	-.561	.205	-.342	.407
O	140	2	10	5.60	1.846	.347	.205	-.084	.407
Q1	140	2	10	4.39	1.857	1.098	.205	.642	.407
Q2	140	3	9	6.14	1.786	-.265	.205	-.685	.407
Q3	140	3	10	7.07	2.080	-.413	.205	-.630	.407
Q4	140	3	10	6.26	1.647	.381	.205	.061	.407

In the table above are inserted the results obtained at the personality factors after Cattell in subjects with normative behaviour. The minimum value and the maximum value of the group for each variable shall also be given. The average value for each personality factor studied is also calculated.

Figure 1. Personality profile of the investigated subjects (Questionnaire 16 PF Cattell)

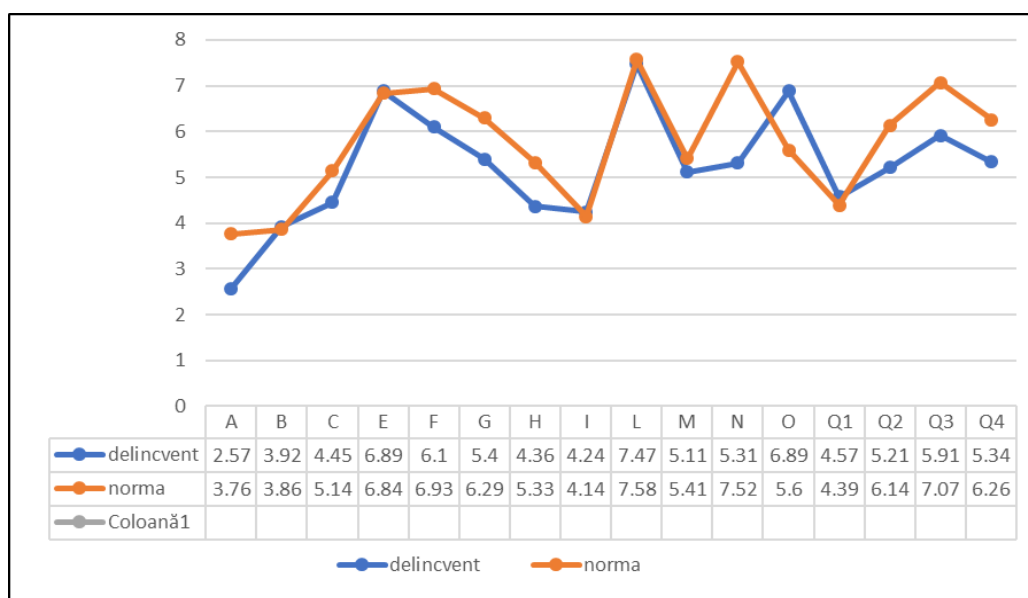


Figure 1 proposes for analysis the personality profile of the subjects with delinquent behaviour in the probation system in comparison with the personality profile of the subjects with normative behaviour. **Table 3.** Statistical differences in personality factors between the results of subjects with delinquent behaviour and those with normative behaviour (Questionnaire 16 PF Cattell)



		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
				F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference
										Lower
A	Equal variances assumed	6.777	.010	-5.176	278	.000	-1.193	.230	-1.647	-.739
	Equal variances not assumed			-5.176	262.290	.000	-1.193	.230	-1.647	-.739
B	Equal variances assumed	3.838	.051	.214	278	.831	.057	.267	-.468	.583
	Equal variances not assumed			.214	274.963	.831	.057	.267	-.468	.583
C	Equal variances assumed	.677	.411	-2.458	278	.015	-.686	.279	-1.235	-.136
	Equal variances not assumed			-2.458	277.858	.015	-.686	.279	-1.235	-.136
E	Equal variances assumed	.026	.871	.186	278	.853	.043	.231	-.412	.497
	Equal variances not assumed			.186	277.856	.853	.043	.231	-.412	.497
F	Equal variances assumed	.602	.439	-3.269	278	.001	-.829	.253	-1.327	-.330
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.269	277.288	.001	-.829	.253	-1.327	-.330
G	Equal variances assumed	.123	.726	3.650	278	.000	.893	.245	.411	1.374
	Equal variances not assumed			3.650	278.000	.000	.893	.245	.411	1.374
H	Equal variances assumed	.297	.586	-3.837	278	.000	-.971	.253	-1.470	-.473
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.837	277.206	.000	-.971	.253	-1.470	-.473
I	Equal variances assumed	6.510	.011	.394	278	.694	.100	.254	-.400	.600
	Equal variances not assumed			.394	265.473	.694	.100	.254	-.400	.600
L	Equal variances assumed	.359	.550	-.421	278	.674	-.107	.255	-.608	.394
	Equal variances not assumed			-.421	275.474	.674	-.107	.255	-.608	.394



M	Equal variances assumed	10.779	.001	1.165	278	.245	.293	.251	-.202	.788
	Equal variances not assumed			1.165	264.152	.245	.293	.251	-.202	.788
N	Equal variances assumed	.619	.432	-7.280	278	.000	-1.614	.222	-2.051	-1.178
	Equal variances not assumed			-7.280	277.711	.000	-1.614	.222	-2.051	-1.178
O	Equal variances assumed	20.461	.000	4.947	278	.000	1.293	.261	.778	1.807
	Equal variances not assumed			4.947	256.806	.000	1.293	.261	.778	1.807
Q1	Equal variances assumed	11.630	.001	.703	278	.483	.179	.254	-.321	.679
	Equal variances not assumed			.703	263.282	.483	.179	.254	-.322	.679
Q2	Equal variances assumed	17.716	.000	-3.640	278	.000	-.929	.255	-1.431	-.426
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.640	255.000	.000	-.929	.255	-1.431	-.426
Q3	Equal variances assumed	.061	.805	-4.510	278	.000	-1.164	.258	-1.673	-.656
	Equal variances not assumed			-4.510	276.532	.000	-1.164	.258	-1.673	-.656
Q4	Equal variances assumed	6.872	.009	-4.186	278	.000	-.921	.220	-1.355	-.488
	Equal variances not assumed			-4.186	267.333	.000	-.921	.220	-1.355	-.488

The data in Table 3 tells us the differences between the results obtained by the 2 groups of subjects to the personality factors studied using The Questionnaire 16 PF Cattell.

The questionnaire contains 16 Personality Factors. In 9 of the 16 factors investigated we obtained statistically significant differences, namely: *Factor A*: Schizothyme vs. cyclothymia; *Factor C*: Emotional instability vs. emotional stability; *Factor F*: Restraint vs. expansiveness; *Factor G*: The strength of the self – the submission of feelings vs. the high normative of behaviour; *H factor*: Prudence vs. boldness; *Factor N*: Naivety vs. clairvoyance; *Q2 factor*: Dependency vs. independence; *Q3 factor*: High auto control vs. low self-control; *Q4 factor*: Détente vs. strain.

At all these 9 factors the *p-value* is less than the materiality level (0.05), and the difference between the averages is statistically significant.

3.2. Research results of the FPI Personality Questionnaire

Table 4. Descriptive statistics on the scales of the Questionnaire on the group of subjects with delinquent behavior in the penitentiary (FPI questionnaire)

Scale	Number of subjects	Minimum value	Maximum value	Interced e	Standa rd deviati on	Variat ion	Asymmetry		Vaulting	
							Statisti cal	Stand ard error	Statis tsc	Sta nda rd error
1 Nervousnes s	23	5,00	9,00	7,6087	1,26990	1,613	-1,069	,481	,334	,935
2 Aggressiven ess	23	5,00	9,00	7,6522	1,30065	1,692	-1,045	,481	,225	,935
3 Depression	23	4,00	9,00	7,3043	1,49042	2,221	-,846	,481	,128	,935
4 Emotivenes s	23	4,00	9,00	7,5217	1,41001	1,988	-,954	,481	,246	,935
5 Sociability	23	1,00	5,00	3,0435	1,18622	1,407	,088	,481	-,738	,935
6 Calm character	23	1,00	7,00	3,2174	1,67757	2,814	1,016	,481	-,126	,935
7 Domination	23	5,00	9,00	7,4348	1,12112	1,257	-,352	,481	-,540	,935
8 Inhibition	23	1,00	7,00	4,6522	1,82430	3,328	-,415	,481	-,868	,935
9 Sincerity	23	1,00	6,00	3,5652	1,37597	1,893	-,149	,481	-,717	,935
10 Introversion / Extraversio n	23	2,00	9,00	4,7391	2,11526	4,474	,376	,481	-,980	,935
11 Emotional lability	23	6,00	9,00	7,6957	1,01957	1,040	-,445	,481	-,772	,935
12 Masculinity/ Femininity	23	1,00	8,00	4,0000	1,83402	3,364	,048	,481	-,088	,935

In the table above are presented the results obtained by subjects with delinquent behavior at personality attributes, indicating the minimum value at each scale, the maximum value, the average, the standard deviation.

Table 5. Descriptive statistics on the scales of the Questionnaire on the group of subjects with delinquent behavior in the penitentiary (FPI questionnaire)



Scale	Number of subjects	Minimum value	Maximum value	Interced	Deviati on standard	Variation	Asymmetry		Vaulting	
							Statistical	Standard error	Statistic al	Stand ard error
1 Nervousness	48	1,00	9,00	4,3958	2,01842	4,074	- ,036	,343	-,575	,674
2 Aggressiveness	48	1,00	8,00	3,9583	2,13341	4,551	- ,012	,343	-1,037	,674
3 Depression	48	1,00	8,00	4,3750	2,23726	5,005	- ,125	,343	-1,367	,674
4 Emotiveness	48	1,00	8,00	4,0000	2,25973	5,106	,092	,343	-1,577	,674
5 Sociability	48	3,00	9,00	6,2917	1,78598	3,190	,123	,343	-1,195	,674
6 Calm character	48	3,00	9,00	6,7917	1,57045	2,466	- ,052	,343	-,689	,674
7 Domination	48	1,00	9,00	4,6458	2,45374	6,021	- ,148	,343	-1,307	,674
8 Inhibition	48	1,00	7,00	4,1458	2,27839	5,191	- ,289	,343	-1,648	,674
9 Sincerity	48	2,00	9,00	6,3750	2,01721	4,069	- ,313	,343	-1,144	,674
10 Introversion/ Extraversion	48	4,00	9,00	6,0625	1,86121	3,464	,339	,343	-1,407	,674
11 Emotional lability	48	1,00	7,00	4,3958	2,02894	4,117	-,217	,343	-1,348	,674
12 Masculinity/ Femininity	48	1,00	8,00	4,9583	2,23091	4,977	-,030	,343	-,975	,674

This table presents the same categories of values, but which were obtained by subjects with normative behavior.

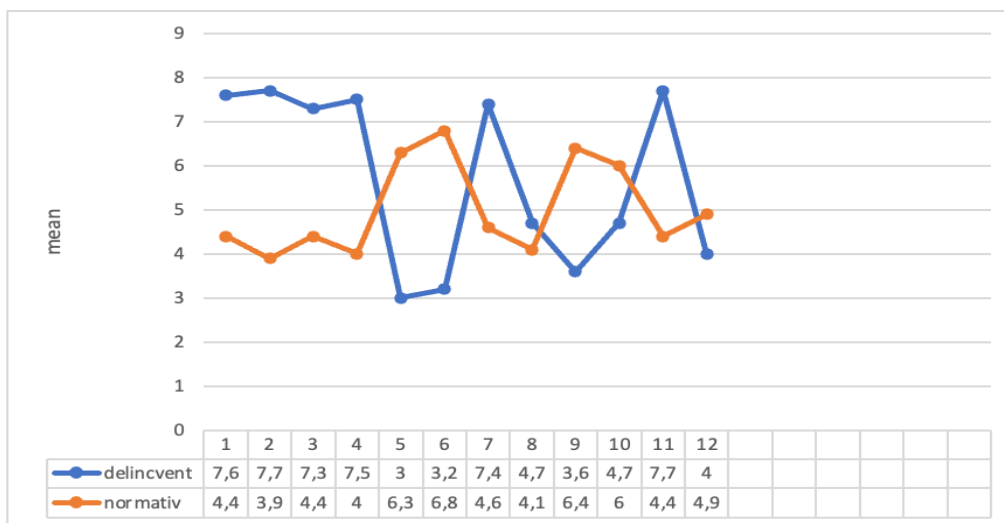


Figure 2. Average values at FPI Questionnaire scales

Establishing the differences between subjects with deviant behavior and subjects in the norm by means of the U-Mann Whitney test allowed to identify statistically significant differences as shown in the table below.

Table 6. Differences obtained using the U-Mann-Whitney Test (delinquent behavior and normative behavior), (FPI questionnaire)

Variables	Mann-Whitney U	p	Media behaviour delinquent	Media behaviour normative
Nervousness	101,500	0,001	7,6	4,4
Aggressiveness	80,500	0,001	7,7	3,9
Depression	157,500	0,001	7,3	4,4
Emotiveness	109,500	0,001	7,5	4,0
Sociability	69,000	0,001	3,0	6,3
Character calm	87,500	0,001	3,2	6,8
Domination	181,500	0,001	7,4	4,6
Inhibition	492,500	0,456	4,7	4,1
Sincerity	160,500	0,001	3,6	6,4
Introversion/ extraversion	343,000	0,009	4,7	6,0
Emotional lability	74,000	0,001	7,7	4,4
Masculinity/ femininity	421,000	0,103	4,0	4,9

From the table we highlight the statistically significant differences in the nervousness factor in the group with delinquent behavior $M1 = 7,6$, and the subjects with normative behaviour $M2 = 4,40$ ($U=101,500$, $p=0,001$), in the aggressive factor the group with delinquent behavior $M1 = 7,7$, and the subjects with normative behaviour $M2=3,9$ ($U=80,500$, $p=0,001$), in the depression factor the group with delinquent behaviour $M1 = 7,30$ and the subjects with normative behaviour $M2= 4,4$ ($U=157,500$, $p=0,001$), at the emotive factor the group with delinquent behaviour $M1=7,55$ and the subjects with



normative behaviour $M_2=4,00$ ($U=109,500$, $p=0,001$), at the sociability factor the group with delinquent behaviour $M_1=3,0$ and the subjects with normative behaviour $M_2=6,3$ ($U=69,000$, $p=0,001$), at the calm character factor the group with delinquent behaviour $M_1=3,2$ and the subjects with normative behaviour $M_2=6,8$ ($U=87,500$, $p=0,001$), at the domination factor the group with delinquent behaviour $M_1 = 7,4$ and the subjects with normative behaviour $M_2=4,6$ ($U=181,500$, $p=0,001$), at the sincerity factor the group with delinquent behaviour $M_1=3,6$ and the subjects with normative behaviour $M_2=6,4$ ($U=160,500$, $p=0,001$), at the int/ext factor the group with delinquent behaviour $M_1=4,7$ and the subjects with normative behaviour $M_2=6,0$ ($U=343,000$, $p=0,009$), at the emotional lability factor the group with delinquent behaviour $M_1 = 7,70$ and the subjects with normative behaviour $M_2=4,40$ ($U=74,000$, $p=0,009$), except for the masculinity/femininity variables the group with delinquent behaviour $M_1= 4,00$ and the subjects with normative behaviour $M_2=4,9$ ($U=421,000$, $p=0,103$), inhibition of the group with delinquent behaviour $M_1=4,7$ and subjects with normative behaviour $M_2=4,11$ ($U=492,500$, $p=0.456$).

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. Personality characteristics of minors in the probation system

4.1.1. Particularities of self-control and self-regulation of behaviour: factors Q3 and G

To highlight the characteristics of self-control and self-regulation of the investigated subjects, we analysed the results obtained at *factor Q3* - High self-control vs. self-control and at *Factor G*: The strength of the self - submission of feelings vs. high normative of behaviour. In both factors we have obtained significant statistical differences.

The Q3 factor measures the level of self-control of behaviour, personality integrity.

The data in Tables 1 and 2 and in Figure 3 show low level at this factor obtained by subjects with delinquent behaviour. They are not guided by voluntary control, diminished respect for social demands, they are not attentive to others. They may feel inadequate. It characterizes his inability to self-control his own emotions and behaviour. Possesses impulse-dominated behaviour, low will control, poor adaptation, low conscientiousness. Not too sensitive, but impulsive in their behaviour, and therefore prone to errors.

Whereas the subjects in the group with normative behaviour register higher average values compared to the first. They are characterized by strong willpower, high ability to self-control one's own emotions and behaviour, perseverance, decision-making capacity, objectivism, a high level of integration, stable interests, and forms of behaviour. Master yourself, with care for your own reputation. The image they are building for themselves is high, but in almost all cases it coincides with the demands of society.

The G-factor measures the strength of the self and normativity.

The data in Tables 1 and 2 and in Figure 1 show that the mean value of subjects with delinquent behaviour indicates a lower level of environment. They are characterized by the tendency towards inconsistency of the goal, without constraint in behaviour, they do not make efforts to carry out group tasks, the fulfilment of social and cultural requirements. Their freedom from group influence can lead to asocial behaviour. They adhere to rules and norms to a small extent, they are relaxed, unkempt, careless. They can be easily influenced by emotions, events, and circumstances. Lack of organization, irresponsibility, impulsivity, lack of agreement with generally accepted moral norms and standards, lack of flexibility in relation to social norms.

The average value of subjects with normative behaviour is at an above average level. They are conscientious, persevering, consciously adhere to generally accepted norms and rules, demanding with themselves and others. Have a developed sense of responsibility.

The G factor has tangencies with the factor C, especially regarding the role of self-regulation of behaviour and attitudes towards other people. This factor characterizes the features of the emotional-volitional sphere (perseverance, organization - irresponsibility, lack of organization) and the characteristics of self-regulation of social behaviour (acceptance or ignorance of generally accepted moral norms).

Upon a more detailed analysis of the results obtained by the subjects from the two experimental groups, we can highlight the fact that the subjects in the group with normative behaviour register high values also at the factor Q3 and at the factor G. This means that they can mobilize to achieve the objective, despite the internal resistance and external obstacles. Act thoughtfully, insistently. They are organized, they conclude the activities started, they clearly represent the order of the actions performed, they plan the time. They keep calm in critical situations, can regulate the external manifestations of emotions. They're self-critical. Behaviour is often governed by the demands of the group, the demands of the people around them. Responsible, with a pronounced sense of duty. Subjects in the risk group also average values at factor Q3 and factor G. They are organized and insisted primarily in situations where they have adapted. Subjects with delinquent behaviour have also achieved low values at the factor Q3 and the factor G. They abandon the goal as soon as internal or external obstacles arise. It often acts disorganized. They can't rationally plan and distribute their time. Behaviour is driven primarily by personal, momentary wants and needs, and therefore does not always fall within the traditional framework. Their capabilities are not always critically evaluated. They have a free attitude to moral standards.

4.1.2. Emotional-volitional characteristics: factors C, I, O, Q4

Of these factors that describe the emotional volitional sphere of personality, we have obtained statistically significant differences only in Factor C and factor Q4.

The C factor measures the level of emotional stability.

The data from Tables 1 and 2 and from Figure 1 indicate that in subjects with delinquent behaviour the average value corresponds to the level below the average at this factor. They are characterized by the tendency towards neurotic manifestations, secondary emotions, high emotional instability, tolerance to very weak frustration, impulsivity, irritability, weak will, emotional excitability. Avoid social demands. They may have neurotic symptoms (phobias, sleep disorders, psychosomatic disorders).

And the subjects in the group with normative behaviour are distinguished by the I-I strong inflexible, high emotional stability, strong tolerance to frustration, activism, emotional maturity, establish in interests, increased capacity for work.

4.1.3. Communicative peculiarities and interpersonal relationships: factors A, H, F, E, Q2, N, L

Of all these Factors that describe communicative and relationship characteristics with others, we have obtained statistically significant differences in the following factors: A, F, H, N, Q2.

Thus, subjects with delinquent behaviour are distinguished by the following *personality characteristics*:

1. difficulties in establishing interpersonal relationships, low affective tone, relatively low social availability, inclined to opposing attitudes (A).
2. pessimism in the perception of reality, restraint in the manifestation of emotions (F).
3. inferiority complexes, poor capacity for social contact, unable to anticipate dangers, encounter difficulties in making decisions of oneself (H).
4. naïve, devoid of exigencies, often clumsy in behaviour, lacking the experience of analysing the reasons for their own actions and those of others (N).



5. conformists, dependent on the group to which they belong, prefer to act together with others, because they need the support, approval and advice of others and find it difficult for them to choose their own line of behaviour. (Q2).

4.1.4. Intellectual particularities: factors B, M, Q1

None of these factors have we obtained statistically significant differences between the results of the two batches of subjects. But in all these three factors, the average values of the subjects with delinquent behaviour are lower than the average values obtained by the subjects with normative behaviour.

This helps us to highlight the following intellectual characteristics of subjects with delinquent behaviour:

1. they have average abilities to solve elementary logical tasks, they have an abstract thinking of a medium level, their thinking is specific, rigid (B).
2. with little interest in rules, centred on inner courts, with libertine behaviour (M).
3. reduced critical spirit, caution towards new ideas (Q1).

4.2. Personality characteristics of minors in penitentiary

High scores at *Scale I Nervousness* characterize juvenile offenders through psycho-somatic discomfort, restlessness, instability, states of affective irritation accompanied by vegetative and muscular disorders.

Special attention is worth drawing to the results obtained by the subjects in the penitentiary at *Scala II Spontaneous aggression* that allows us to identify and evaluate the level of schematization. The high scores that delinquent subjects record indicate an increased level of schematization, the creation of premises for impulsive behaviour, the absence of social conformism, poor self-control. All this has a strong connection with insufficient socialization of impulses, inability, or lack of willpower to limit or postpone one's own desires. These subjects have a strong attraction to experiences, acute emotional experiences. In the absence of this type of experiences minors are dominated by boredom. The need for stimulation and exciting situations makes delinquent minors any unbearable delay. They strive to satisfy their desires immediately through impulsive and reckless behaviour, without thinking about the consequences of their actions. In superficial interpersonal relationships can create favourable impression about them, due to the lack of restrictions, self-confidence. They are talkative, they willingly participate in collective events, they respond lively to any event, they find novelty and interest in small everyday things as well. But because of their impulsiveness and recklessness, unbridled Ness, acute desire for adventures, they can engage in excessive behaviours such as alcohol consumption, verbal, physical aggression, thefts, neglect of bonds, etc. And through these behaviours they get rejection from those around them.

High values were obtained by the juvenile offenders in the penitentiary and at *The Depression III Scale*, a scale that makes it possible to diagnose the signs characteristic of the psychopathological depressive syndrome. The high values of this scale characterize people as having low mood, being permanently gloomy, sombre, emboldened, frowning, immersed in their own experiences, irritable. All this causes hostility, irritation in those around them. They can be considered arrogant, inaccessible. Avoid communicating with others due to excessive conceit. Any activity is difficult for them, they quickly get tired, cause a feeling of complete impotence and exhaustion. They are particularly sensitive to intellectual tasks. They get tired easily, they lose them voluntarily in the management of intellectual processes. They are often reproached for being slow, ineffective, lacking perseverance and determination. Most of the time they are incapable of prolonged volitional effort, they easily get lost with the flesh, falling into despair. They have a high fluctuation in moods, but depressive, tense, pessimistic states prevail. They are dissatisfied, anxious, with entrenched ad/no inferiority complexes.



At *Scala IV Emotivity*, the minors in the penitentiary also recorded high values, and this speaks about the fact that they present states of emotional instability, irritability, tension. They are impatient, restless, troubled even by trivial difficulties. They become slightly angry, then aggressive, threatening, with acts of offense or even violent actions.

The high values at *Scale VII Domination* indicate, that delinquent minors are prone to commit acts of reactive physical, verbal, or imaginary aggression. They are characterized by the tendency towards authoritarian-conformist thinking.

It is also worth paying attention to the values raised to *The Xi Emotional Liability Scale*, which describe the delinquent subjects as being with a labile indisposition or mood, sadness, irritability, violence, agitation, unnecessary meditating, apathy, contact difficulties. The sense of guilt is low and mitigated by defence mechanisms such as diminishing the consequences of the crime committed, transferring responsibility to others, blaming the victim, etc.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The delinquent behaviours of minors represent a challenge for parents, teachers, psychologists, social workers, psychosocial service providers, etc. Identifying effective interventions is difficult for reasons because they have individual differences in the presentation of symptoms and in each case influence a combination of factors.

The individual characteristics of minors can be considered indirect causes of antisocial behaviour. They make the child vulnerable, and in combination with other factors contribute to the development of such behaviour.

The environment, negative contexts are mechanisms that facilitate or amplify the participation of minors in the antisocial process. Just like individual characteristics, to the extent that contextual factors can be modifiable, they become targets for interventions.

The psychological profile of the subjects with delinquent behaviour, who are in the probation system, resulting from the analysis of the personality traits of the minors with delinquent behaviour and those with non-delinquent behaviour, includes the following characteristics: difficulties in establishing interpersonal relationships, low affective tone, relatively low social availability, inferiority complexes, poor capacity of social contact, unable to anticipate dangers, with difficulties in making decisions of oneself, pessimism in the perception of reality, aggressive, tough, inclined towards non-recognition of authority, with a tendency towards authoritarian behaviour, deprived of the experience of analysing the reasons of their own actions and those of others, suspicious, distanced, with deep inner distrust and resentment towards other people; average skills to solve elementary logical tasks, medium-level abstract thinking, specific, rigid thinking, with little interest in rules, low critical spirit, caution towards new ideas; emotional instability, tolerance to weak frustration, impulsivity, irritability, weak willpower, emotional excitability, difficulties in the proper expression of emotions, reduced ability to solve difficulties in one's own life that are manifested by evasion from reality and unwillingness to take responsibility, low level of self-confidence, high anxiety, difficult social integration, they feel uncomfortable and insecure in society, feelings of dissatisfaction and frustration; the tendency towards inconsistency of the goal, the lack of constraints in behaviour, they do not make efforts to carry out group tasks and meet social and cultural requirements, they deny social norms in their own interests, low control of the will, poor adaptation, low conscientiousness, difficulties in organizing their own time and establishing the order of things, low self-control.

Juvenile offenders exposed to custodial sentence have the following personality characteristics: high level of schematization that creates prerequisites for impulsive and reckless behaviours; in relationships with people they make gross or meaningless jokes; they are unrestrained, restless, they



manifest the need for change, the thirst for adventure, the tendency to exaltation; have high fluctuations in moods, prevailing depressive states; with states of emotional instability, irritability, tension, impatience; irritable, disappointed, upset; lack of sincerity and self-critical spirit; easy reserve attitude, dejected distrust, discouragement, self-distrust, physical annoyance and general psychosomatic disorders.

The results of the study showed that in both categories of delinquent minors, both in those in the probation system and in those in the prison environment, a high percentage of deformations are present in all areas of psychosocial significance that make them vulnerable to committing crimes.

The diagnostic activity built with competence, the generalized results from this activity and the highlighting of the individual characteristics of the offenders, allow specialists to elaborate and carry out psycho-correctional programs that would contribute to the realization of an effective resocialization process and to the development of the personality of minors.

The correction of the criminal behaviour of minors must be directed towards: changing the attitude towards themselves, towards the activity and towards other people; forming a sense of responsibility towards oneself and others; proper understanding and interpretation of one's own emotions and the emotions of those around you; the formation of moral feelings; emotional self-regulation; the formation of volitional self-control of behaviour; manifestation of empathy and affection towards others; awareness of the characteristics of one's own behaviour; adequate self-assessment; overcoming conflict situations through constructive strategies; the need for introspection, reflection, self-criticism, self-development, etc.

The results analysed in this study with reference to the personality peculiarities of delinquent subjects lead professionals to guide themselves by certain principles of behaviour management, including: Addressing behavioural difficulties to begin with assessing the environment in which they occur; the subjects are involved as much as possible in individualized programs; professionals recognize that in their work with delinquent subjects they may encounter difficulties in relating to them, and in such situations it is necessary to seek assistance and help from other specialists and to provide assistance in a non-critical manner.



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