



## Exploring the Experiences of Families with Delinquent Children

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** The family environment serves as an individual's initial growth and normative learning ground. Nevertheless, it becomes apparent that any shortcomings in family dynamics have adverse implications for a child's behavior, potentially leading to negative repercussions for society as a whole. This research was carried out to elucidate the experiences of families with delinquent children who sought assistance at the psychiatric emergency department of Noor and Hazrat Ali Asghar Hospital in Isfahan in 2018.

**Method:** The study encompassed the entire population of families with delinquent children who sought assistance at the psychiatric emergency department of Noor and Hazrat Ali Asghar (AS) Hospital in Isfahan during the year 2018. Employing a qualitative approach rooted in phenomenology, this research utilized semi-structured, in-depth interviews as the primary data collection method. The sampling process initiated purposefully and continued until data saturation was achieved. All interviews transpired within the premises of the psychiatric emergency department at Noor and Hazrat Ali Asghar (AS) Hospital, with each interview lasting between 45 to 60 minutes. A total of 11 participants were interviewed, accumulating a total of 25 interviews.

**Results:** The results of this research led to the identification of 300 primary-level codes, 38 secondary-level codes, and 19 tertiary-level codes. Ultimately, 8 sub-themes were derived, encompassing 6 sub-themes associated with parents (neglect, inadequate parenting, child maltreatment, unsuitable upbringing environment, family detachment, and parental addiction) and 2 sub-themes related to the child (inappropriate personality traits and individual deviation).

**Conclusion:** In this study, the sub-themes related to parents, namely family coldness, parental addiction, and inappropriate parenting, held more significance and comprised the majority of the codes. Hence, increased parental engagement in child-rearing practices, enhancing the quality of family relationships, and addressing parental addiction can contribute to the reduction of delinquent behaviors in children.

**Keywords:** Family, Child, Delinquent.

## Introduction

One of the pressing concerns in contemporary societies that has attracted the attention of numerous researchers is the issue of delinquent adolescents and youth (1). Delinquency is the prevailing term used to describe criminal behavior among adolescents, encompassing actions that would be deemed criminal for adults. Such behaviors include substance abuse, violent offenses against individuals (like assault), property offenses (such as vandalism and arson), and violations of public order. Juvenile offenders may also engage in status offenses such as truancy and running away (2). Juvenile delinquency is considered a significant social problem for two main reasons: firstly, delinquency during adolescence raises the likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior in adulthood, and secondly, according to self-report data from adolescents, the actual prevalence of juvenile delinquency surpasses official arrest statistics (3).

Published statistics reveal that despite advancements in the quality of life, including cultural and social developments, as well as the expansion of psychological services and institutions, the rates of crimes committed by children and adolescents continue to persist at high levels. There exist numerous potential factors and reasons contributing to this unfortunate social phenomenon, including factors related to the family environment and the personal cognitive characteristics of the delinquent individual (4).

Juvenile delinquency is characterized by a maladjustment with society (5) and manifests in three primary areas of criminal behavior: offenses against ordinary members of society, such as assault and rape; offenses against the property and possessions of others, including theft and document forgery; and offenses against public order, such as obscenity and drug trafficking (6).

Regarding the causes of delinquency, various factors encompassing biological, psychological, social, and cultural aspects have been identified (7). It is recognized that family dynamics and inadequate care, discrimination, hatred, pessimism, violence, extremism, psychopathological disorders, lack of attachment, parental absence or neglect, emotional deficits (8), and personality traits, as well as social factors such as population density, place of residence, social conditions, and conflicts, are all interconnected with this phenomenon (9).

There are five family-related factors that contribute to family disruptions and delinquency: family disintegration, family attraction or pressure, family discipline and relationships, family criminality, and neglect and indifference (10). According to Abrahamson, families of delinquent individuals tend to experience emotionally unhealthy conditions referred to as family pressure, in contrast to families of non-delinquent individuals. This family pressure is characterized by hostility, resentment, anger, provocation, aggression, and nervous disturbances, and it affects both parents and children. Consequently, it is suggested that the absence of warm and emotional relationships within the family has an impact on delinquency (11).

Research has demonstrated that specific aspects of parental behavior can either heighten or diminish adolescents' vulnerability to engage in delinquency. Inadequate parental management, which includes insufficient supervision, a lack of discipline, absence of emotional support, and failure to accept children (12), as well as family discord, relationships among family members, parental control and monitoring, family religious beliefs and convictions, and deviant family members (4), in addition to parental conflicts, conflicts between parents and children at home and outside (13), represent some of the most robust predictors of delinquent and antisocial conduct.

Additionally, variables related to family functioning, perceived attachment, and social support (14) have a negative association with adolescent delinquency.

Researchers have also shown interest in other external factors, including economic and social factors, as well as mental health disorders. These factors encompass residing in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, having a low socio-economic status, associating with delinquent peers, experiencing academic underachievement, running away from home and school, and engaging in substance abuse (15).

Moreover, research on juvenile delinquency generally emphasizes school-related factors, including academic achievement, motivation for learning, feelings of inadequacy at school, and limited interaction between adolescents, teachers, and fellow students (16). Currently, peer relationships have also gained prominence in delinquency studies, as adolescents often spend more time with their friends, place greater importance on them, and are more influenced by them during this period than at any other stage in their lives (17). Peers can significantly influence adolescents' beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors regarding what is considered appropriate or inappropriate. A comprehensive review of prior research has identified peers as the most potent predictor of delinquency (18). Some research findings also suggest that psychological disorders such as anxiety, mood disorders, antisocial personality disorder, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder contribute to adolescent delinquency (19).

Juvenile delinquency, as one of the contemporary social problems, exerts a negative impact on educational, health, financial, occupational, and judicial systems (20). This not only underscores the magnitude of the problem but also underscores the necessity for a clearer understanding of the motivations behind young individuals' involvement in

delinquent behavior (21). Adverse life events, recurring failures that instill a sense of hopelessness, the absence of appropriate role models, unfavorable living conditions such as limited access to education, economic hardships, cultural impoverishment, particularly low parental literacy, and residing in crime-prone neighborhoods are all factors contributing to juvenile delinquency (22). It is evident that any deficiencies in family functioning result in undesirable effects on a child's behavior, ultimately leading to adverse consequences for society as a whole. Therefore, preventive measures are implemented to curb delinquency, with the ultimate goal of fostering a healthier community (22).

The family environment serves as the initial setting for an individual's growth and the acquisition of social norms. Amidst the myriad of factors contributing to child and adolescent delinquency, it is within these families that play a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of their children (23).

Hence, it can be affirmed that the significance of the discussed subject matter hinges on the fact that the "family" assumes a primary and fundamental role in the upbringing and development of individuals, and any shortcomings in family functioning yield unfavorable consequences for the proper growth of children (24).

Presently, delinquency stands as one of the most substantial health and social challenges that nearly every country across the globe grapples with in some form, posing extensive and severe dilemmas for societies. Despite the myriad efforts undertaken in recent decades to raise public awareness regarding the harm and peril of delinquency, we continue to confront an escalating prevalence of these behaviors (25).

Research concerning the role of families in delinquency and its potential impact on the prevention of juvenile delinquency holds immense significance. It

has the potential to provide valuable insights that can be harnessed by various entities, including educational institutions, welfare agencies, social services, correctional and rehabilitation centers, and more. The findings from such research can be particularly valuable in customizing interventions for specific geographical regions and demographic groups. Given the dearth of comprehensive research in this domain and the imperative to gain an understanding of the experiences of families with delinquent children, embarking on further comprehensive research in this field is imperative.

Therefore, the current study, conducted with the objective of elucidating the experiences of families with delinquent children who sought assistance from psychiatric emergency services in Isfahan in the year 2018, serves as a pivotal step in bridging this research gap. It lays the groundwork for more extensive and holistic investigations in this realm.

### **Materials and Methods:**

This research employed a descriptive phenomenological approach. The study encompassed all families with delinquent children who sought assistance at the psychiatric emergency department of Noor and Hazrat Ali Asghar Hospital in Isfahan during the year 2018. The research activities took place within the confines of the hospital's emergency department in Isfahan. The sampling method employed was purposive, and a total of 11 parents (both fathers and mothers) of delinquent children were selected to participate in semi-structured interviews. Following the acquisition of requisite legal permissions and the elucidation of research objectives, the study was initiated by the researcher. In total, 25 interviews were conducted involving the 11 participants, who were parents of delinquent children. Data collection and analysis were conducted

concurrently until data saturation was achieved. Inclusion criteria for participants involved parents who willingly volunteered to take part in the research and were capable of articulating their experiences. It encompassed families with delinquent children who had their child admitted to the psychiatric emergency department of the hospital, and families who were alert and able to communicate their experiences.

Exclusion criteria encompassed parents who opted to withdraw from further participation and cooperation in the research, as well as parents for whom continued cooperation was unfeasible due to mental or physical conditions.

### **Implementation**

In this study, participants were initially selected on a voluntary basis, purposefully chosen from among the families who had visited the research environment in line with the study's objectives. Those who expressed willingness and provided their consent were invited to participate in the interviews. All participants were assured that their information would be kept confidential. The sample size was determined based on the criterion of theoretical data saturation, which implies that interviews continued until no new data emerged. To establish the interview guidelines and develop initial concepts and themes, preliminary interviews were conducted with families who had a history of their child's delinquency. These preliminary interviews utilized broad, open-ended questions. Once the initial interview guidelines were formulated, a more comprehensive set of open-ended questions was designed based on these initial concepts.

Data collection involved conducting semi-structured, in-depth interviews until data saturation was achieved. The interviews commenced with indirect and open-ended questions, such as "Please describe your life since you became aware that your child has been engaging in delinquent behaviors." Subsequent

questions delved into the experiences related to delinquency, its meaning and significance, and the factors influencing it. These interviews were recorded on tape within a clinical setting, and note-taking was also conducted. Each interview had a duration ranging from 45 to 60 minutes. To enhance the validity of the data, interviews were conducted over an extended period, with researchers being present in the research environment during various shifts.

The recorded transcripts were transcribed onto paper and analyzed in conjunction with the written interviews. The analysis process followed these steps: sentences from the interviews were transcribed with space on the left side to accommodate the addition of main units of meaning as needed. In the subsequent stage, a phenomenological approach was employed, and the units of meaning within the text were delineated. In the third stage, efforts were made to distill a more comprehensive meaning from these separated units of meaning. Finally, words or phrases that encapsulated the essence of the experiences of families with delinquent children and provided

responses to the research inquiries were pinpointed and documented. Subsequently, the frequency of similar codes was tallied, culminating in the identification of core themes that encompassed various codes and clusters. Ethical standards were followed in this research, including obtaining the ethics code IR.IAU.KHUISF.REC.1398.251, informed consent, ensuring privacy, and confidentiality. Participants were given the option to withdraw from the research at any time, with an emphasis on completing all questions, based on their own discretion and considering the circumstances and time available for questionnaire completion.

### Results:

The age of the participants in this study ranged from 35 to 61 years old. Regarding gender distribution, the findings revealed that 4 participants, constituting 36% of the sample, were fathers, while 7 participants, comprising 64% of the sample, were mothers.

Table 1 – Personal characteristics of the respondents

Relationship with Delinquent	Age of parents	Education	Occupation	Child's Age	Gender	Duration of Delinquency (Year)
Father 1	46	Elementary Education	Freelance Laborer	18	Male	10
Mother 1	54	Middle School Graduate	Freelance	25	Male	9
Father 2	61	Bachelor's Degree in Applied Physics	Freelance Producer	34	Female	15
Mother 2	44	Middle School Graduate	Housekeeper	23	Female	7
Mother 3	40	High School Diploma	Beautician	18	Male	10
Mother 3	35	Junior High School Graduate	Housekeeper	18	Female	5
Mother 4	58	Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Law	Housekeeper	34	Female	15
Father 4	46	Elementary	Radiator repairman	19	Female	6
Father 5	36	High School Diploma	Taxi Driver	18	Female	5
Mother 5	41	Bachelor's Degree in Psychology	Housekeeper	19	Female	6
Mother 6	42	High School Diploma	Restaurant Waiter	18	Male	5

### The first stages of the Colaizzi's method

The Colaizzi's phenomenological analysis method was employed as a guide for analyzing the data in the present study. Following the seven-step process outlined by Colaizzi, the first step involved gathering all statements made by the participants to develop a comprehensive understanding of the concepts. For instance, Participant 1 articulated:

"...Now, if she had continued, she would have finished school... I didn't let her go... She herself had no desire to go because I thought all the teachers at school wanted me, and they said your daughter annoys a lot and plays around with other girls, and she doesn't pay attention to her studies at all..."

### The second stages of the Colaizzi's method

In the second stage of Colaizzi's method, the process involved extracting meaningful information from the participants' statements. To extract this meaningful information, relevant explanations, sentences, or phrases directly related to the phenomenon of interest were identified and highlighted using the underlining method. This stage is commonly known as the extraction of "significant statements." For instance, Participant 2's statement illustrates this process:

"...It means that you should follow their advice... Whatever they want, just say 'okay'... I told him that it's a mistake; don't think others will be afraid of you just because of this card... I'm not afraid that you might commit suicide, it's possible that you do something like this, that something unexpected happens, and you really harm yourself or cut your wrist. It's not just about thinking that by stabbing yourself with a knife, you won't get anything..."

### The third stages of the Colaizzi's method

In the third stage of Colaizzi's analysis, specific meanings and formulations of the content were

extracted from the participants' statements. This involved the extraction of meaningful codes from the participants' statements. In this research, the raw data underwent multiple reviews to transform them into abstract and general concepts, with an attempt to extract as much relevant information as possible. As an example, consider the statement made by Participant 3:

"At first, when he came out, he was with his friends, one of his friends, an old classmate with whom he was always together. They were in a relationship, apparently, a very good boy, from a cultured family with whom he had interactions that I didn't know much about, but my son had described him. Then, he called me and said, 'Mom, I'll be out with one of my friends in an hour.' Afterward, there was a girl he had become friends with. They had gone out together; it seems like she wanted to somehow make him understand, as if I want to cut myself. Erfan was also very dependent on him..."

### Review of Extracted Semantic Codes

The meaningful codes extracted from the interviews conducted with families of delinquent children are summarized in Table 2 (Appendix).

**Table 2- Some semantic codes**

Table of semantic units related to the purpose of the research
Code number: experiences of families with delinquent children - primary extracted semantic unit (level 1 codes)
1- Separation of parents and helplessness of children
2- Mother's remarriage, after the father's death
3- The life of the child with relatives and close relatives, especially the grandmother
4- Child abuse with parents to get money
5- The child's frequent fights at school with his classmates
6- Aggression of the child with family and first-class acquaintances
7- Giving ransom and bribe to the child by the mother
8- Family life in the marginal and poor neighborhoods of the city
9- Parents' lack of interest and lack of motivation to continue their children's education
10- Harassment of teachers and school staff by the child
11 -An act of a woman with a razor, by a child
12 -Harassment for the neighbors, by the child
13-Marijuana consumption by the child
14-Use of drugs by the child, outside the home
15- Incompatibility of the child with the parents and referral of the child to welfare

In the fourth stage of the Clascalysis analysis, the researcher, after multiple revisions of the codes and repeating the third stage, organized the developed concepts into clusters until reaching the main themes or topics. In this way, second-level conceptual codes were obtained.

**Findings related to the research objectives; (Level 2 codes)**

**Titles of some of the extracted level two codes from level one codes**

1- Ethical recklessness of the child; 2- Inappropriate behavior and disposition of the child; 3- Parents' illiteracy; 4- Financial problems of the parents; 5- Emotional emptiness and lack of affection in the family; 6- Criminal behaviors of the child; 7- Parental shortcomings in child upbringing; 8- Difficulty in taking care of the child; 9- Lack of support and companionship from the spouse; 10- Improper use of

virtual space by the child; 11- Lack of support and advocate for the child; 12- Parental psychological problems; 13- Child abuse; 14- Parents' frustration; and 15- Child's hopelessness.

**In the fifth stage of Colaizzi's analysis,** the comprehensive formation of codes from the examined topics was presented, which has been elaborated further in Chapter 5.

**In the sixth stage of Colaizzi's analysis,** a total of 300 level 1 codes, 32 level 2 codes, 19 level 3 codes, and 8 final themes related to parents' experiences and statements were extracted from the interview transcripts.( Table 3, Figure 1-8)

**Table 3-** Titles of level 3 codes extracted from level 2 codes

Third level codes
1- The initial shock of the parents, when they were informed of the disease (121)
2- Negation of parents (75)
3-Difficulty accepting the child's illness (133)
4-Parents' sense of guilt (47)
5- Parents wandering (96)
6- Failure to search for information by parents (211)
7-Lack of emotional support (98)
8-Lack of social support (9)
9- Surrender of parents (116)
10- Cultural poverty of parents (241)
11- Low social level of parents (55)
12- Inappropriate educational model for children (36)
13- Unstable reaction of parents (72)
14- Lack of security in the surrounding environment (75)
15- Unprincipled relationships in the family (88)
16-Breaking family privacy (30)
17- Unstable reaction of the child (175)
18- Wrong reaction of parents (98)
19-The child's lack of insight into his illness(67)



The themes (8 in total) derived from the results of level 3 codes:

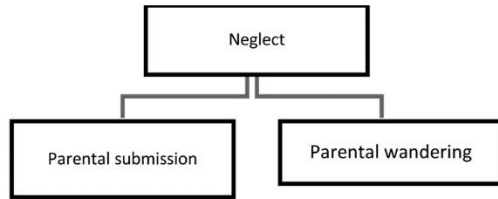


Figure 1 - Theme obtained number one

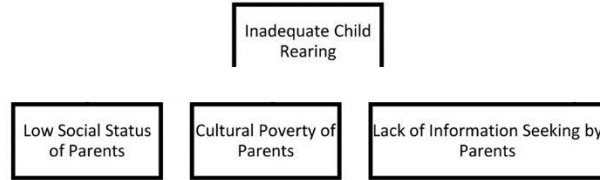


Figure 2 - Theme obtained number two

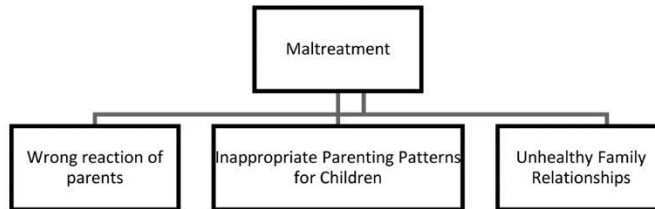


Figure 3 - Theme obtained number three

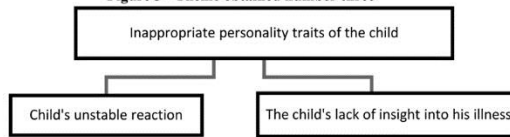


Figure 4 - Theme obtained number four

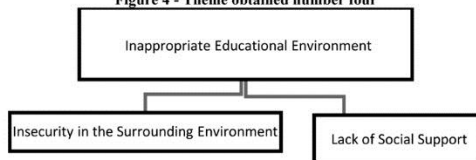


Figure 5 - Theme obtained number five

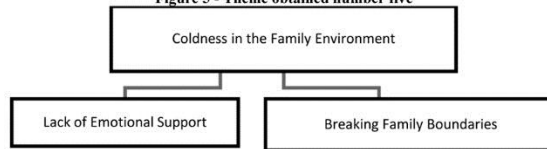


Figure 6 - Theme obtained number six

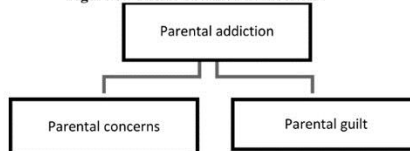


Figure 7 - Theme obtained number seven

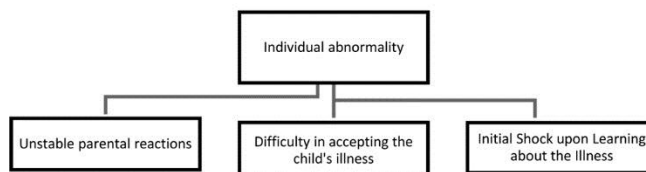


Figure 8 - Theme obtained number eight

In the seventh stage of Colaizzi's analysis, to ensure the validity of the formation of themes and to validate them, the themes were referred back to their initial protocols, which are the primary codes extracted from the interviews.

## Discussion

This study aimed to describe the experiences of families with delinquent children, resulting in the identification of eight themes: single parenting, improper child upbringing, neglect, inappropriate personality traits of the child, improper child-rearing environment, family coldness, parental addiction, and individual deviance. Notably, the themes associated with parents, particularly family coldness, parental addiction, and improper child upbringing, held more significance and represented the majority of the coded data. Consequently, increasing parental involvement in child-rearing practices, improving the quality of family relationships, and addressing parental addiction can play a pivotal role in mitigating the deviant behaviors exhibited by children.

The findings of this research are in line with the outcomes of prior studies conducted by Javdan (75) and Sebastian et al. (16). These results indicate that a lack of awareness on the part of guardians or parents regarding the necessary and appropriate communication skills with their children can lead to significant social disruptions within the family. It can be argued that an orphaned child may lose one or more individuals who fulfill their physical and emotional needs, and the death of a parent can diminish or eliminate the attention provided by others. Orphanhood can result from various causes, including the death of a father, the mother's remarriage, resistance to step-parenting, the mother's death, and the presence of a stepmother. Orphanhood, in certain cases, commences with the loss of parents, while in others, it arises from parental divorce, each scenario

having distinct effects on adolescent delinquency—a complex and analyzable domain. These findings are consistent with the realities observed in the country.

The findings from this research align with the results of studies conducted by Elias et al. (29) and Hoeben et al. (30). These findings can be explained by emphasizing that parenting styles and the way parents control and manage their children are undeniably among the most influential factors contributing to children's behavioral problems. Often, parents lack sufficient knowledge and familiarity with child-rearing and disciplinary methods, and this can be attributed to cultural and educational deficiencies among parents, single-parent households, family instability, or parental conflicts and divorces. As children develop into social beings, they experience a range of emotions and feelings, including affection and love, sacrifice and forgiveness, anger and resentment, envy and suspicion, and grudges not only towards their parents but also towards their siblings. Families are so interconnected that any problem or issue affecting one family member directly impacts the lives of other family members. Psychologists have long sought to understand the influence of the family on personality development through the development of specialized methods. Parental supervision and attention to proper child-rearing are the most significant factors related to adolescent delinquency (31).

The findings from this research are in accordance with the results of studies conducted by Javanmard et al. (33) and Hartman et al. (34). To elucidate these results, it can be stated that neglected children are innocent and vulnerable individuals who, against their will and due to problems within the realm of adults, families, and social institutions, find themselves in unfavorable situations and circumstances. Neglect, which can be caused by various factors, often signifies a weakened family foundation or a lack of parental responsibility

toward their children, leading to detrimental consequences. These adverse effects ripple through society and the community, highlighting the need for support for this group, who, like others, deserve to grow up in a nurturing family environment. The results indicate that most children were deprived of effective care and nurturing within their families (35).

The theme of inappropriate personality traits in children, as revealed in this research, aligns with the findings of Feizi (37) and Anderson et al. (38). To elucidate these findings, it can be explained that a child's health status, cognitive abilities, and personality traits, combined with the family environment and socio-cultural backgrounds, collectively shape the child's future growth, development, and social interactions. Consequently, inappropriate personality traits can act as risk factors. The results indicate that most delinquent children did not exhibit suitable personality traits (36).

For children who were adopted shortly after birth, delinquency and criminal behaviors in adulthood were found to be more closely related to the behavior patterns of their biological parents rather than their adoptive parents. Although criminal behavior is multifaceted, certain personality traits play a role in explaining it. One important avenue of research into criminal behavior explores the link between personality traits and the commission of crimes. In this context, criminal behavior is influenced by specific personality traits. Several research findings suggest that personality traits like extraversion and neuroticism positively predict delinquency. Some studies also argue that core personality traits such as impulsivity, sensation-seeking, extraversion, neuroticism, and especially high negative emotionality (indicating a tendency to experience aversive emotional states and a lack of inhibition) predict antisocial and criminal behaviors (36).

The findings obtained from this research are consistent with the results of Aazami et al. (39) and Lazarevic et al. (40). To clarify these findings, it can be noted that the family plays a fundamental role in shaping the health and well-being of individuals, serving as the primary institution for maintaining both individual and societal health. The parent-child relationship is one of the most crucial factors influencing psychological and social development, holding immense significance in the life of a growing child. Ineffective parenting styles and inappropriate parent-child interactions during the developmental period can result in communication problems and ultimately render children susceptible to disorders such as anxiety, behavioral issues, psychological problems, and more. The decline in the quality of the parent-child relationship often stems from parents lacking awareness of effective communication skills with their children. Therefore, an early intervention approach targeting parenting methods can be highly effective in preventing the development of chronic behavioral disorders (41).

The theme of "Coldness within the Family" is another one of the themes derived from this research. The results obtained from this research align with the findings of Farzaneh et al. (4) and Calafat et al. (44). To elucidate this finding, it can be noted that when parents share warmth and affection with each other, their child is likely to experience a loving and caring environment. In such a family, the child not only avoids jealousy but also feels content and happy within this affectionate and emotionally fulfilling atmosphere. Conversely, the absence of love and intimacy in the family can lead to children feeling alienated and disconnected from their family. The analysis of interviews in this study reveals that most delinquent children grew up in families characterized by coldness and a lack of intimacy. A child raised in such a cold environment may be at risk of developing depression and anxiety, withdrawing and isolating

themselves, experiencing emotional deprivation, feeling excessive, rejected, and punished, and struggling to develop a well-balanced personality (45). The theme of "Parental Addiction" is another one of the themes derived from this research. The findings of this research align with the results obtained from the research conducted by Moazami et al. (46) and Wang et al. (47). To elaborate on this finding, it can be emphasized that parents have a significant influence on shaping their children's behavior and personality. Children often learn many behaviors through imitation of their parents, and parenting styles, parent-child relationships, and family culture can all impact children's behavior, including the development of deviant behaviors. The results of this study indicate that in some cases, parents of delinquent children were addicted to substances. Juvenile delinquency and exposure to parental addiction are directly related to the upbringing environment and the quality of interpersonal interactions in life settings like the family and broader social environments. It's essential to note that social prevention of substance abuse in adolescent boys is more effective than punitive measures. Addicted parents may lose their ability to effectively supervise their adolescents, while research shows that parental supervision is a crucial factor in preventing juvenile delinquency (48).

The theme of "Individual Deviance" is another one of the themes derived from this research. The findings of this research are in line with the results obtained from the research conducted by Abbasi Esfejr et al. (14) and Ytiksel-Sahin et al. (49). To elaborate on this theme, it can be emphasized that when an individual within the family environment doesn't have their basic physical and psychological needs, especially emotional needs, adequately met, there is a higher likelihood that they may engage in antisocial behavior in the future. The absence of love, intimate relationships, and mutual understanding can be

influential factors in the delinquency of children and adolescents. A child who is deprived of love from their parents or hasn't received proper nurturing may experience feelings of inferiority, deficiency, and deprivation, making them more susceptible to engaging in deviant behavior. Various forms of aggression, violence, defiance, sensitivity, depression, and maladjustment can all result from a lack of love and affection in a child's life.

The research limitations included the following: Lack of access to previous studies directly related to the research topic. Time constraints for collecting and completing the necessary information for interviews. Inability to access accurate information sources regarding the registration of juvenile and youth delinquency statistics. Restricted access to sample participants (families of delinquent adolescents). The research recommendations were as follows: Providing consistent and ongoing programs to monitor the effectiveness of reducing harm. Conducting follow-up interviews with affected adolescents. Developing survey instruments based on the research findings from previous studies.

## Conclusion

In this study, describe eight themes: single parenting, improper child upbringing, and neglect, inappropriate personality traits of the child, improper child-rearing environment, family coldness, parental addiction, and individual deviance. The sub-themes related to parents, were namely family coldness, parental addiction, and inappropriate parenting, held more significance and comprised the majority of the codes. Hence, increased parental engagement in child-rearing practices, enhancing the quality of family relationships, and addressing parental addiction can contribute to the reduction of delinquent behaviors in children.

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## Conflict of Interest

According to the authors, this article has no financial support or conflicts of interest to declare.

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