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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS CHILD REARING PRACTICES

BETWEEN

MOTHERS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS AND MOTHERS OF NORMAL ADOLESCENTS



by

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A Comparative Study of Attitudes towards Child-Rearing Practices between Mothers of Juvenile Delinquents and Mothers of Normal Adolescents

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ABSTRACT

The present study was designed to compare attitudes toward child-rearing practices between mothers of juvenile delinquents and of normal adolescents. Fifty mothers of each group who were Thai and Buddhists were interviewed by the Parental Attitude Research Instrument (PARI), Their sons had the age range of 13-18 years. The hypothesis that there would be differences in attitudes between these two groups were supported by the following results: (1) Authoritarian-Control: mothers of delinquents expressed higher trend in this area than did mothers of normals (p.001) as shown by the following 13 scales: Fostering dependency, Seclusion, Breaking the Will, Martyrdom, Fear of Harming the Baby, Excluding Outside Influences, Deification, Suppression of Aggression and Sex, Ascendance, Intrusiveness, and Acceleration of Development (p.05), Considering educational level, family status, and working status, mothers of delinquents continually had a higher degree of punitive-controlling supervision. (2) Hostility-Rejection: Mothers of Delinquents were more hostile and rejecting (p.0010 on the Marital Conflict, Strictness, and Irritability scales. With regard to educational level, family status, and working status, they still showed stronger trends, especially towards attitudes reflecting Marital Conflict and Strictness. (3) Democratic Attitudes: mothers of normals used democratic practices more than did mothers of delinquents (p.001) as pointed out on the Encouraging Verbalization and Comradeship and Sharing scales whether having elementary education, a normal family background or working status, except those with secondary education being higher on the Encouraging Verbalization and Equalitarianism. No significant differences were found between the two groups from a traumatic family background.



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