

PERCEPTIONS OF DELINQUENT AND NON-DELINQUENT
FEMALES CONCERNING THEIR FATHERS

By

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Identification occurs when children internalize attitudes, values and behavior patterns from parents or parental surrogates. The role of the father in the family appears to have extensive influence in the process of both masculine and feminine identification and personality adjustment. The methods of paternal discipline, child-rearing practices followed, personality of the father, his social attitudes and the particular character of the father-child relationship appear to have an impact on children's development as well as long lasting effects upon their social adjustment and personality.

The father's function in the American family has been largely unexamined. Historically, there have been only two areas which have received research attention with respect to the role of fathering: (a) the effects of the father-son relationship on masculine development; and (b) the effects of father-absence on sex role identification in boys and on family functioning, leaving father-daughter relationships relatively unexplored. This is partly due to the belief that a child's identification with his sex role is primarily the result of interaction with the same sex parent.

Many researchers regard parental deprivation as one of the main causes of delinquent behavior (Andry, 1960; Bowlby, 1974; Grygier, Chesley and Tutors, 1969). Theoretically, parental deprivation may be

classed as maternal, paternal or dual parental. However, consideration has been given primarily to maternal deprivation, while little attention has been given to the other two factors (Grygier, Chesley and Tutors, 1969). As men assume increasing responsibility for child-rearing, the need for more research on the father-child relationship become apparent.

Tasch (1952) noted a father adds a specifically feminine element to a girl's initial expressiveness by appreciating her not simply for being good, but for being attractive. Fathers participate in the daily care and protection of girls even more than of boys and think of their daughters as dainty and fragile. Kagan and Lemkin (1960) found that girls could communicate with their fathers better than could boys. Nash (1954) suggests that strong attachments between fathers and daughters are less adverse to a girl's normal development than are strong mother-son attachments to that of a boy. Johnson (1963) corroborates this view and suggests that a girl's normal development of sex-role orientation depends upon her identification with the father.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to examine the perceptions of non-delinquent and delinquent female adolescents concerning their fathers in relation to selected background variables.

The following are representative of the hypotheses to be examined:

1. There is no significant difference between the perceptions of non-delinquent and delinquent female adolescents in relation to:
 - a. age of the adolescent

- b. race
 - c. social class of the family of orientation
 - d. absence of father or father figure in the family of orientation
 - e. amount of affection received from father or father figure
 - f. masculinity of father or father figure
 - g. type of discipline employed in the home
 - h. degree of closeness with the father or father figure
 - i. educational level of the father
 - j. amount of time spent with the father or father figure
 - k. identification with parents
2. There is no significant relationship between identification with parents and childhood happiness of delinquent and non-delinquent female youth.
 3. There is no significant relationship between discipline received in the home and identification with parents among delinquent and non-delinquent females.
 4. There is no significant relationship between identification with parents and the kind of discipline received from their parents among delinquents and non-delinquents.
 5. There is no significant relationship between identification with their fathers and the amount of time delinquents and non-delinquents spend with their fathers.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Influence of Fathers on Daughters'

Development and Adjustment

Although a significant amount of research has been completed on mother-child relationships, there is an equally urgent need to examine other heretofore unstudied social factors including paternal influence in personality adjustment (Bowlby, 1967; Peterson, Becker, Hellmer, Shoemaker and Quay, 1959; Benson, 1968; Andry, 1962; Nash, 1965; and Warren, 1957). The need to study fathers as crucial contributors to the developing personalities of their children is vital.

Considerable attention in family relations research is given to the concepts of parent-child identification which include how parents and children perceive each other and under what conditions parents and children identify with each other. Doherty's (1969) study evaluated the effects of father identification on sex-role typing and conscience development in the female. It was found that the females who identified with their fathers were not independent of their parents' standards, and that girls would identify with the parent whom they perceived as the more accepting of the two.

Fish (1969) noted that girls whose fathers were relatively unavailable were less feminine than girls whose fathers were moderately or highly available. The nurturance, limit-setting, positive involve-

ment, rejection and dominance of the father showed more frequent positive relationships to personality adjustment than to sex-role development. Femininity in the daughter was not found to be associated with either maternal employment or parents' conflict regarding the mother's role. However, greater femininity in the goals selected by the daughter was found to be related to a positive attitude of the mother irrespective of the attitude of the father. Some indications were found that the attitude of the father is related to the adolescent daughter's self perception.

The father's influence on his daughter's personality development may be indirect in terms of his relationship with his wife, since she is a model for the daughter's sex-role development (Billler and Weiss, 1970). Billler and Weiss (1970) also noted "feminine behavior in the girl seems to be much related to how the father defines his role as a male to his daughter and how he differentiates his masculine role from her feminine role" (p. 82). A positive relationship appears between the amount of time the father spends constructively interacting with his daughter and the identity of the daughter. The various reinforcements of the father in the father-daughter relationship foster the development of sex-role learning in the growing child. A basic part of the girl's sex-role development appears to be a positive concept of her femaleness. The father may aid in the development of a positive feminine identity by reacting to his daughter as a female and reinforcing societal acceptable feminine behavior. Wright and Tuska (1966) supported this notion when they stated that a necessary ingredient for the development of a girl's "feminine" feelings was learning to interact in a complimentary manner with her father.

Hall (1963) found that the higher the daughter's identification with her father, the more feminine her vocational interests tend to be. For example, career-oriented women tended to evaluate themselves as they evaluated their fathers rather than their mothers, and they did not perceive themselves as more similar to their mothers than to their fathers. Nuzum (1970, p. 2689A) concluded that "homemaker-oriented women perceived their relationship to their fathers as freer, more sensitive, smoother, and more pleasurable than career-oriented women perceived this relationship".

Leonard (1966) found that the father's influence was particularly important when the daughter reaches the stage in her affectional development when she is searching for a love-object. Leonard noted that the ability of the father to respond to his daughter's needs depends on the extent to which his own oedipal conflict is resolved. The father would not be able to give his daughter desexualized affection if his defense mechanisms were inappropriately involved in a counter-oedipal response to his daughter. This was very much evident in a study of paternal incest occurring with young daughters at puberty (Bigras, Bouchard, Coleman-Porter, and Tasse, 1966) which found the incestuous father to be a weak, masochistic-passive person dominated by his wife. The mothers of these girls were found to be basically rejecting. The daughters suffered personality disorganization upon the father's departure with much "acting out" behavior.

Daughters' Identification with Their Fathers

Studies demonstrate that the lack of fathering impairs the child's future sex orientation. A woman may never develop good heterosexual

relationships if as a little girl she had no opportunity to learn from both parents about the vicissitudes and pleasures of heterosexual relationships (Brazelton, 1970). Mead (1965) reports the father's relationship with his daughter is never the same as with his son. Girls usually have a more affectionate, warm relationship with their father. The way which he responds to her actions helps her develop her femininity

Wright, Benjamin and Taska (1966) indicate that "feminine" women view their fathers more favorable than "masculine" women and that through childhood "masculine" women feel less understood by their fathers. Mead (1965) believes a daughter treated with a mixture of roughhousing, understanding, and unthreatening silence will discover that she is cherished because she is a girl and will learn to trust herself with men and expect that men will be strong and protective in their care.

The importance of warm, satisfying family relationships as a factor influencing identification with parents is also suggested by many studies. Mowrer (1950), Stokes (1954), Payne and Mussen (1956), Kagan (1961), Bronfenbrenner (1961) and Mussen and Distler (1959) agree that identification occurs with a rewarding, affectionate father.

Effects of Father-Absence on Delinquency

The research concerning the impact of paternal deprivation upon children had indicated the correlation of several factors. Bronfenbrenner (1968) has pointed out that not only does father-absence have a direct effect on children, but there is indirect effect of the mother's resultant behavior from the husband's departure. Often the mother

becomes overprotective. Several investigators have noted that boys from father-absent homes are more dependent as well as more willing to accept authority from others than boys from homes that are intact (Stolz, 1954; Lynn and Sawry, 1959; Bronfenbrenner, 1961; Bach, 1964; Bronfenbrenner, 1968). Thus, it appears that paternal deprivation affects children's consequent behavior. Several of the factors which appear to have an impact on children from homes where the father is absent are: the nature of the separation (Hoffman, 1961), the age of the child (Langer and Michael, 1963), and the sibling composition (Sutton-Smith, Rosenberg, and Landry, 1968). With respect to the specific reason for the absence of the father, Illsley and Thompson (1961) have found that the father's death had little adverse effect upon children, whereas his absence due to separation or divorce was more detrimental. In regard to sibling composition of the child as a factor that works in the modification of the effect of paternal deprivation, Sutton-Smith, Rosenberg, and Landry (1968) reported that girls with a younger brother are more affected than other girls, and that only girls are affected more than only boys.

As the ramifications of father-absence upon children are examined, it is apparent that not only are there several factors operating in the situation, but that there are varied consequences which are multifaceted. Delinquency is one such consequence.

If viewed symptomatically, all delinquent behavior, whatever specific form it may take, has the common denominator of maladaptation to the demands of society (Glueck and Glueck, 1950). There are innumerable varieties of youthful misbehavior which might be considered delinquent depending upon the family, community, social status and

inclination of the court (Block and Flynn, 1956; Hirschi, 1969). Concerning which parent makes the greatest impact in causing delinquency, Hirschi (1969) states: "The empirical evidence that the father is more important than the mother in the causation of delinquency is matched on the whole by evidence that he is less important. The theoretical literature also offers us a choice." Nye (1958) states: "The father's behavior is more significantly related to the delinquent than is the behavior of the mother." Supporting this view, Grygier, Chelsey and Tutors (1969) state: "An adequate father image seems more likely to contribute to delinquency than a faulty mother image."

Warren and Palmer (1965) found that ninety-eight percent of the delinquents they studied had no father substitute, while only seventeen percent had no mother or mother substitute. Barker and Adams (1962) point out that this is also true in situations where the father may be present but fails to function as head of the household.

In studies of absent fathers and non-functioning fathers, Clausen (1961) and Nye (1957) found that the non-functioning father produced a higher proportion of delinquents, drug addicts, unwed mothers, prostitutes and more cases of psychosomatic illnesses than father-absent families. Benson (1968) believes that by remaining present in the home, non-functional fathers may actually cause a great deal of harm.

The effect of self concept of delinquent behavior has received little attention from researchers and it is only beginning to receive the attention that it requires (Amos, 1968). Deitch (1959), Ackerson (1942), Lefeber (1965) and Kim (1968) in cross-cultural studies of delinquents, found that in no area does the delinquent see himself positively. Research suggests that a child's opinions and acceptance

of herself are positively related to the opinion and acceptance her parents have of her (Maxwell, Dales and Walters, 1969). The Gluecks (1970) found that the worst delinquents came from homes where the family lacked strong self-concepts.

Effects of Discipline of Parents

Discipline is a factor that is related to parent-child relationships and suggested by many investigators as closely related to anti-social behavior. Slater (1961) related discipline and nurturance to positive behavioral adjustment in children. Radke (1946) states that children learn different behavior from being exposed to the reactions to their parents. Shore (1971) points out that disciplinary techniques within a family lead to the development or lack of development of self-discipline within the individual. The Gluecks (1950) list discipline by the father, supervision by the mother, affection from both, and cohesiveness of the family as most important for predicting future delinquent behavior.

McCord and McCord (1958) found that consistent discipline, whether love-oriented or punitive, tended to prevent criminality. However, erratic punitive punishment was correlated with every type of crime. Candura and Walters (1958) further supported this conclusion in a study of various effects of parental discipline.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

Selection of Subjects

The subjects for this study were a representative sample of adolescent females between fourteen and eighteen years of age residing in the state of Oklahoma. The sample population was divided into two primary groups, delinquent and non-delinquent. The delinquent respondents were enrolled in Oklahoma Girls Town in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, who were incarcerated individuals for either deviant or criminal behavior. The non-delinquent respondents were students at Guthrie Public High School in Guthrie, Oklahoma, living with at least one parent or parent surrogate. Both groups were surveyed during April, 1974. Cooperation in administration of the questionnaire was secured from the superintendents, principals and faculty of both institutions. An explanation of the project was given and plans were made for the distribution and completion of the questionnaires.

Measurement of the Background Variables

The questionnaire contained items designed to obtain the following background information: (a) age, (b) place of birth, (c) race, (d) amount of schooling completed, (e) number of times the family has moved, (f) socio-economic status, (g) presence or absence of father during childhood, (h) reason for the father's absence, (i) perceived

childhood happiness, (j) perceived closeness to the mother, (k) source of discipline, (l) type of discipline received, (m) perceived amount of love received from parents, (n) perceived influence of parents in determining the type of person, (o) perceived masculinity of father and self, (p) which parent runs the family, (q) consistency of discipline, (r) family cohesion, (s) personal normlessness and (t) parental identification. Questions establishing social status are based on the McGuire-White (1955) Index of Social Status.

A lie scale was developed for this study to eliminate those subjects who might respond in a highly conventional manner and who might attempt to falsify responses by presenting responses which they feel are highly socially desirable. Eight questions or statements were designed for this purpose and randomly placed throughout the information section of the questionnaire. Respondents who attempted to falsify a favorable answer on three out of eight questions had their questionnaires excluded from the analysis of the data.

Measurement of Attitudes Toward Fathers

Description of the Instrument

The instrument, Attitudes Toward Parents Scale (Form F), was developed by Itkin (1952) as part of a battery of scales to measure attitudes related to the family. It consists of thirty-five items, of which eleven are true-false, eight are multiple choice and sixteen are personality traits that are rated on a five point scale.

Scoring the Instrument

Each question has a numerical value assigned to each response alternative. This value was designed and established by Itkin (1952 and 1955). The attitude score is the sum of the values for each item endorsed. The theoretical scores ranged from forty-six to one hundred and sixty-four. A high score indicates a favorably attitude toward the father. The data will be analyzed by a computerized method of analysis.

Validity of the Instrument

A validation study was conducted to determine whether attitudes scores correlated with self-ratings, using students at Herzt and Wright Junior Colleges. Attitude scores on Form F correlated $-.700$ with self-ratings where low self-ratings and high attitude scores were considered to indicate favorable attitudes toward parents (Itkin, 1952).

Reliability of the Instrument

Split-half reliabilities were reported to be $.917$ corrected to $.956$ for Form F, based on the responses of 311 students.

Analysis of the Data

Analysis of Variance was utilized whenever continuous data from three or more independent groups was compared. A t-test was utilized in comparing scores involving two groups. Chi-square analysis was used when nominal level data was compared.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Description of the Subjects

Background Information

A detailed description of the 170 subjects who participated in this study is presented in Table I. The respondents ranged from fourteen to eighteen years of age, with the greatest proportion in the category of seventeen to eighteen years (82.4%). Comparisons between black and non-black respondents were not made because of the limited proportion of black respondents (18 total). Most of the subjects experienced the absence of their fathers before the age of five. Most of the subjects' fathers (82.3% of the delinquents and 60.0% of the non-delinquents) had completed eleven to twelve years of school and 54.7% of the total reported that their family income was from either salaries, commissions or monthly checks.

Family Relationships Information

In addition to the background information, the questionnaire also contained items which elicited the students' perceptions of their family relationships (Table II). The greatest proportion of the non-delinquent students (80.0%) felt their fathers were above average in masculinity, compared to only 49.4% of the delinquent students.

TABLE I
BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUBJECTS

Description	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	N	%	N	%
N = 170				
<u>Age</u>				
14-16	15	17.6	15	17.6
17-18	70	82.4	70	82.4
<u>Father's Education</u>				
Below grade 8	11	12.9	10	11.8
Grades 9-11	21	24.7	15	17.7
Highschool graduate	38	44.7	26	30.5
1-3 years college	12	14.1	14	16.5
College graduate	3	3.5	20	23.5
<u>Father Absence</u>				
Yes	85	100.0	80	94.1
No	0	0.0	5	5.9
<u>Parent's Marital Status</u>				
Married and living together	13	15.3	48	56.5
Separated or divorced	37	43.5	23	27.1
One or both dead	35	41.2	14	16.5
<u>Race</u>				
Black	6	7.1	12	14.2
Non-Black	79	92.9	71	85.8

TABLE II
SUBJECTS' RATINGS OF THEIR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Description	N = 170			
	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	N	%	N	%
<u>Masculinity of Father</u>				
Very high	8	9.4	35	41.2
Above average	34	40.0	33	38.8
Average or below	43	50.6	17	20.0
<u>Masculinity of Respondent</u>				
Very high	6	7.1	0	0.0
Above average	34	40.0	0	0.0
Feminine	45	52.9	85	100.0
<u>Type of Physical Punishment by Father</u>				
None	43	50.6	15	17.6
Moderate spanking	36	42.3	53	62.4
Beating	6	7.1	17	20.0
<u>Type of Physical Punishment by Mother</u>				
None	39	45.9	10	11.8
Moderate spanking	44	51.8	67	78.8
Beating	2	2.3	8	9.4
<u>Childhood Happiness</u>				
Very happy	28	32.9	10	11.8
Above average	23	17.1	42	49.4
Average or below	34	50.0	33	38.8
<u>Head of the Family</u>				
Father	3	3.5	36	42.4
Mother and Father	60	70.6	34	40.0
Mother	22	25.9	15	17.6
<u>Main Source of Discipline</u>				
Father	40	47.0	33	38.8
Mother	25	29.4	39	45.9
Other	20	23.5	13	15.3

TABLE II (Continued)

Description	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	N	%	N	%
N = 170				
<u>Most Influencing Parent</u>				
Mother and Father equally	43	50.6	26	30.6
Mother	41	48.2	46	54.1
Father	1	1.2	13	15.3
<u>Father's Discipline</u>				
Fair	51	60.0	39	45.9
Too soft	20	23.5	24	28.2
Too hard or inconsistent	14	16.5	22	25.9
<u>Father's Love to Respondent</u>				
Very much	4	4.7	35	41.1
Above average	29	34.1	25	29.4
Average or below	52	61.1	15	17.6
<u>Mother's Love to Respondent</u>				
Very much	19	22.4	55	64.7
Above average	63	74.1	16	18.8
Average or below	3	3.5	14	16.5

In regard to the perceived masculinity and femininity of the respondents, 47.1% of the delinquents felt they were above average in masculinity while none of the non-delinquents considered themselves as masculine.

Most girls (77.6%) reported their discipline from both their mother and father was moderate spanking with only a fourth of the black respondents reported that they received a beating as a means of punishment by both mother and father. In regard to perceived childhood happiness, the non-delinquent girls had a very happy childhood or above average childhood in terms of happiness (61.2%) and the delinquent girls had an average or below average childhood (50.0%).

In regard to the head of the family, 70.6% of the delinquents stated the task was equally shared by the mother and the father and the non-delinquents stated that the father was the head of the household (42.4%).

When questioned about the influence of parents, 1.2% of the delinquents stated that their father was the most influencing parent, compared to 15.3% of the non-delinquents. Most delinquents (61.1%) reported that the love they received from their father was average or below. Most of the non-delinquents (70.5%) said their father loved them very much or above average. The delinquents reported that the love they received from their mother was above average (73.4%), compared to 71.9% of the non-delinquents who reported that their mother loved them very much. In regard to discipline, 60.0% of the delinquents considered the discipline they received from their father as fair, and 45.9% of the non-delinquents felt it was fair.

The Item Analysis

A chi-square test was utilized in the present investigation to determine which items on Itkin's Attitudes Toward Parents Scale (Form F) significantly differentiated those subjects scoring in the upper quartile and those subjects scoring in the lower quartile on the basis of total scores. All of the 35 items in the scale were found to be significantly discriminating at the .001 level suggesting its usefulness with adolescent girls of the age groups represented in the present study.

Responses to Itkin's Scale Attitudes Toward Parents Scale (Form F)

Most of the non-delinquent girls considered themselves very close to their fathers, and reported that their fathers generally had good reasons for any requests they might make. The majority indicated that they would like to be the same kind of parent that their fathers had been. Most of the delinquent girls did not consider themselves very close to their father, nor did they want to be the same kind of parent that their parents had been. The delinquents feel that their fathers did not make reasonable requests (63.5%).

The majority of the non-delinquents thought their fathers underestimated their abilities (56.5%), while 43.5% of the delinquents thought the same. The majority of the non-delinquents felt their fathers found unwarranted fault with them, had respect for their opinions, took sufficient interest in whether or not they had friends, and whether they treated them fairly. The majority believed that their fathers were admirable, and that they considered the rearing of their

children the most important job in life. All of the above responses were the complete opposite for the delinquents.

In terms of getting along with their fathers, 35.5% of the non-delinquents responded very well and 14.1% of the delinquents responded very well. In regard to asking personal questions, 52.9% of the non-delinquents trusted their fathers enough to feel free to ask him personal questions while 24.7% of the delinquent respondents rarely if ever would even think of asking him any personal questions. Only 30.6% of the non-delinquents and 18.8% of the delinquents indicated that their fathers showed pleasure in what their children did. The majority of the delinquents (92.9%) said their fathers did little things for his children, compared to 65.9% of the non-delinquent respondents saying the same. The majority of the non-delinquent girls indicated that their fathers enjoyed spending some of their time with their children, compared to the delinquent girls who indicated that their fathers do not like to spend time with their children.

The non-delinquent respondents generally rated their fathers average to very fair, unselfish, helpful, not sarcastic, considerate, not bossy, agreeable, kind, not envious, affectionate, understanding, warm, not suspicious, sympathetic, courteous, and trustful. The delinquent respondents generally rated their fathers average to very unfair, selfish, unconsiderate, unagreeable, unaffectionate, not understanding, uncourteous, and untrustful.

Delinquent respondents were compared with non-delinquent respondents on the Father Identification Scale. When asked which parent they would take with them on a trip they had won, the delinquents (63.5%) desired to take their mother, compared to 52.9% of the non-delinquents

taking their mother. The other five questions, asking which parent would you go to in the case of a false accusation, when sad, explaining a fight with your best friend, wanting advice about V.D. and generally who you discuss your problems with, revealed that the delinquent would seek assistance from their mother. A closer balance is revealed with the non-delinquent respondents, with the exception that 84.7% would go to their father if they got V.D. Responses to each item are presented in Tables III, IV, V, and VI.

Relationship Between Scores and Selected Background Variables

In order to examine the hypothesis that there is no significant difference between the perceptions of delinquents and non-delinquents concerning their fathers, a Mann-Whitney U test was utilized to compare the total scores on Itkin's Scale. No significant difference was found ($p = .17$).

The Kruskal-Wallis One-Way Analysis of Variance was used to examine perceptions of respondents to Itkin's Attitudes Toward Parents Scale (Form F) which were classified in terms of: (a) the masculinity of the father, (b) type of punishment used by the father, (c) closeness to the father, (d) father's love to his daughter, (e) amount of time the father desired to spend with the respondent, (f) parent who influenced the respondent the most, (g) parent who guided the family, (h) agent of discipline, (i) respondents masculinity/femininity, (j) parents marital status, (k) whom the respondent resided with, (l) father's educational background level, (m) childhood happiness, (n) age. The results of these analyses are presented in Table VII.

TABLE III

RESPONSES TO ITKIN'S ATTITUDES TOWARD PARENTS
SCALE (FORM F) SECTION I

Item	Delinquents						Non-Delinquents					
	True		Undecided		False		True		Undecided		False	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. I consider myself very close to my father.	26	30.6	19	22.3	40	47.1	17	20.0	43	50.6	25	29.4
2. My father generally has good reasons for any request he might make.	24	28.2	7	8.2	54	63.5	35	41.2	27	31.8	23	27.1
3. I would like to be the same kind of parent my father has been	24	28.2	26	30.6	35	41.2	17	20.0	51	60.0	17	20.0
4. I believe that my father does not know how much I can do.	37	43.5	35	41.2	13	15.3	48	56.5	23	27.1	14	16.5
5. I believe my father finds fault with me more than I deserve, he never seems to like anything I do.	24	28.2	52	61.2	9	10.6	40	47.1	31	36.5	14	16.5

TABLE III (Continued)

Item	Delinquents						Non-Delinquents					
	True		Undecided		False		True		Undecided		False	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6. I believe that my father has little respect for my opinions.	49	57.7	28	32.9	8	9.4	14	16.5	29	34.1	42	49.4
7. In my estimation, my father is not greatly interested in whether or not I have friends.	16	18.8	57	67.1	12	14.1	16	18.8	31	36.5	38	44.7
8. In my judgment, my father did not treat me fairly when I was young.	61	71.8	13	15.3	11	12.9	11	12.9	35	41.2	39	45.9
9. I believe that my father is one of the best persons I know.	14	16.5	25	29.4	46	54.1	32	37.6	30	35.3	23	27.1
10. My father has been one of the best friends I have.	7	8.2	28	32.9	50	58.9	21	24.7	40	47.1	24	28.2
11. My father considers the rearing of his children his most important job in life.	25	23.5	20	29.4	40	47.1	31	36.5	24	28.2	30	35.3

TABLE IV
 RESPONSES TO ITKIN'S ATTITUDES TOWARD PARENTS
SCALE (FORM F) SECTION II.

Item	N = 170			
	Delinquent		Non-Delinquent	
	N	%	N	%
1. My father takes interest in everything that concerns his children:				
Takes a very great interest	15	17.7	34	40.0
Takes a moderate interest	5	5.9	10	11.8
Takes average interest	21	24.7	12	14.1
Takes little interest	18	21.2	5	5.9
Takes no interest	26	30.6	24	28.2
2. I get along with my father:				
Very well	12	14.1	30	35.3
Well	5	5.9	14	16.5
Fairly well	18	21.2	6	7.1
Not very well	28	32.9	11	12.9
Not at all	22	25.6	24	28.2
3. I trust my father enough to:				
Feel free to ask him personal questions	25	29.4	45	52.9
Often ask him personal questions	15	17.7	10	11.8
Sometimes ask him personal questions	24	28.2	7	8.2
Rarely if every ask him any personal questions	9	10.6	3	3.5
Wouldn't think of asking him any personal questions	12	14.1	20	23.5

TABLE IV (Continued)

Item	N = 170			
	Delinquent		Non-Delinquent	
	N	%	N	%
4. Check which of the following best describes your feelings for your father:				
I like my father very much	5	5.9	18	21.2
I like my father	0	0.0	2	2.3
I neither like nor dislike my father	12	14.1	15	17.7
I dislike my father	20	23.5	13	15.3
I dislike my father very much	48	56.5	37	43.5
5. Check whichever of the following descriptions most nearly fits your father:				
Is always critical of his children	14	16.5	24	28.2
Is sometimes critical of his children	21	24.7	11	12.9
Is not very critical of his children	14	16.5	7	8.2
Sometimes shows pleasure at what his children do	20	23.5	17	20.0
Very often shows pleasure	16	18.8	26	30.6
6. My father does little things for his children to show affection or consideration:				
Never does	6	7.1	29	34.1
Seldom does	13	15.3	12	14.1
Sometimes does	28	32.9	15	17.6
Often does	21	24.7	8	9.4
Is always doing	17	20.0	21	24.7

TABLE IV (Continued)

Item	N = 170			
	Delinquent		Non-Delinquent	
	N	%	N	%
7. In my opinion, my father:				
Wants his children around all the time	5	5.9	23	27.1
Wants to spend some of his time with them	4	4.7	9	10.6
Likes to spend a little of his time	14	16.5	9	10.6
Does not like to spend time	47	55.3	31	36.5
Dislikes very much spending any time	15	17.6	13	15.3

TABLE V
 RESPONSES TO ITKIN'S ATTITUDES TOWARD PARENTS
 SCALE (FORM F) SECTION III

Trait	N = 170			
	Delinquent		Non-Delinquent	
	N	%	N	%
1. <u>Fair</u>				
Very great degree	5	5.9	29	34.1
Greater than average degree	2	2.4	10	11.8
Average degree	21	24.7	5	5.9
Less than average degree	25	29.4	12	14.1
Very slight degree or not at all	32	37.6	29	34.1
2. <u>Selfish</u>				
Very great degree	10	11.8	26	30.6
Greater than average degree	6	7.1	6	7.1
Average degree	18	21.2	6	7.1
Less than average degree	20	23.5	13	15.3
Very slight degree or not at all	31	36.5	34	40.0
3. <u>Helpful</u>				
Very great degree	7	8.2	25	29.4
Greater than average degree	8	9.4	8	9.4
Average degree	19	22.3	13	15.3
Less than average degree	16	18.8	7	8.2
Very slight degree or not at all	35	41.2	32	37.6
4. <u>Sarcastic</u>				
Very great degree	10	11.8	30	35.3
Greater than average degree	11	12.9	16	18.8
Average degree	22	25.9	7	8.2
Less than average degree	22	25.9	9	10.6
Very slight degree or not at all	20	23.5	23	27.1

TABLE V (Continued)

Trait	N = 170			
	Delinquent		Non-Delinquent	
	N	%	N	%
<u>5. Considerate</u>				
Very great degree	7	8.2	28	32.9
Greater than average degree	7	8.2	8	9.4
Average degree	13	15.3	12	14.1
Less than average degree	21	24.7	13	15.3
Very slight degree or not at all	37	43.5	24	28.2
<u>6. Bossy</u>				
Very great degree	10	11.8	26	30.6
Greater than average degree	10	11.8	6	7.1
Average degree	14	16.5	9	10.6
Less than average degree	21	24.7	15	17.6
Very slight degree or not at all	30	35.3	29	34.1
<u>7. Agreeable</u>				
Very great degree	9	10.6	34	40.0
Greater than average degree	5	5.9	5	5.9
Average degree	21	24.7	12	14.1
Less than average degree	24	28.2	9	10.6
Very slight degree or not at all	26	30.6	25	29.4
<u>8. Kind</u>				
Very great degree	24	28.2	42	49.9
Greater than average degree	11	12.9	7	8.2
Average degree	18	21.2	6	7.1
Less than average degree	17	20.0	9	10.6
Very slight degree or not at all	15	17.7	21	24.7

TABLE V (Continued)

Trait	N = 170			
	Delinquent N	%	Non-Delinquent N	%
9. <u>Envious</u>				
Very great degree	8	9.4	34	40.0
Greater than average degree	11	12.9	12	14.1
Average degree	23	27.1	5	5.9
Less than average degree	24	28.2	13	15.3
Very slight degree or not at all	19	22.4	21	24.7
10. <u>Affectionate</u>				
Very great degree	7	8.2	28	32.9
Greater than average degree	3	3.5	9	10.6
Average degree	15	17.7	8	9.4
Less than average degree	23	27.1	13	15.3
Very slight degree or not at all	37	43.5	27	31.8
11. <u>Understanding</u>				
Very great degree	11	12.9	30	35.3
Greater than average degree	6	7.1	15	17.6
Average degree	20	23.5	5	5.9
Less than average degree	26	30.6	9	10.6
Very slight degree or not at all	22	25.9	26	30.6
12. <u>Cold</u>				
Very great degree	5	5.9	29	34.1
Greater than average degree	8	9.4	8	9.4
Average degree	13	15.3	4	4.7
Less than average degree	19	22.3	7	8.2
Very slight degree or not at all	40	47.1	37	43.5

TABLE V (Continued)

Trait	N = 170			
	Delinquent		Non-Delinquent	
	N	%	N	%
13. <u>Suspicious</u>				
Very great degree	14	16.5	42	49.4
Greater than average degree	11	12.9	5	5.9
Average degree	20	23.5	6	7.1
Less than average degree	23	27.1	12	14.1
Very slight degree or not at all	17	20.0	20	23.5
14. <u>Sympathetic</u>				
Very great degree	8	9.4	36	42.3
Greater than average degree	10	11.8	12	14.1
Average degree	24	28.2	11	12.9
Less than average degree	20	23.5	10	11.8
Very slight degree or not at all	23	27.1	16	18.8
15. <u>Courteous</u>				
Very great degree	7	8.2	35	41.2
Greater than average degree	8	9.4	10	11.8
Average degree	10	11.8	7	8.2
Less than average degree	31	36.5	9	10.6
Very slight degree or not at all	29	34.1	24	28.2
16. <u>Trustful</u>				
Very great degree	12	14.1	31	36.5
Greater than average degree	5	5.9	14	16.5
Average degree	11	12.9	4	4.7
Less than average degree	17	20.0	7	8.2
Very slight degree or not at all	40	47.1	29	34.1

TABLE VI

RESPONSES TO THE FATHER IDENTIFICATION SCALE

Item	Delinquent						Non-Delinquent					
	Mother		Father		Neither		Mother		Father		Neither	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. You have just won a trip to Hawaii for you and one of your parents. Which will you take?	54	63.5	24	28.2	7	8.2	45	52.9	31	36.5	9	10.6
2. You have been falsely accused of stealing money. Which parent will you go to for help?	44	51.8	12	14.1	29	34.1	40	47.1	33	38.8	12	14.1
3. If you were sad, which parent would you go to cheer you?	58	68.2	16	18.8	11	12.9	41	48.2	33	38.8	11	12.9
4. If you had just had a fight with your best friend, which parent would you tell?	59	69.4	22	25.9	4	4.7	42	49.4	37	43.5	6	7.1
5. If you got V.D., which of your parents would you ask for advice?	47	55.3	34	41.0	4	4.7	13	15.3	72	84.7	0	0.0
6. Whom would you rather discuss your problems with?	45	52.9	33	38.8	7	8.2	38	44.7	31	36.5	16	18.8

TABLE VII

KRUSKAL-WALLIS ONE-WAY ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE OF ITKIN'S SCALE
 SCORES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RATINGS OF DELINQUENTS
 AND NON-DELINQUENTS CONCERNING THEIR FATHERS

Background Variable	Delinquent H-Score	Level of Significance	Non-Delinquent H-Score	Level of Significance
1. Degree of masculinity of the father.	7.97	NS	22.06	.001
2. Type of physical punishment from the father.	3.59	NS	0.85	NS
3. Closeness to the father.	54.35	.001	69.69	.001
4. Perceived amount of father love.	43.10	.001	38.74	.001
5. Amount of time spent with the father.	36.50	.001	54.17	.001
6. Parent providing the greatest influence.	21.00	.001	13.14	.001
7. Parent who guides the family.	11.41	.05	19.32	.001
8. Agent of discipline.	10.00	.05	5.61	NS
9. Degree of masculinity of respondent.	2.01	NS	0.94	NS
10. Parents' marital status.	7.89	NS	14.21	.01
11. Lived mainly with	9.53	.05	6.70	NS
12. Father's educational level.	8.04	NS	12.10	NS
13. Perceived childhood happiness.	20.52	.001	9.50	.05

Ten of the variables investigated in relation to the total group scores on Itkin's scale revealed significant differences. Eight of these same ten variables investigated in relation to the scores of the non-delinquents revealed significant differences, although eight were significant for the delinquents. Those variables which were found to reflect statistically significant differences among groups were then subjected to a Mann-Whitney U test to determine particular relationships between categories within the variables which accounted for the significance revealed by the Kruskal-Wallis One-Way Analysis of Variance (refer to Tables VII, VIII, and IX).

The variables, degree of masculinity of the father, closeness to the father, perceived amount of father love, amount of time spent with the father, parent providing the greatest influence, parent who guides the family, parent's marital status and perceived childhood happiness were significantly related to the non-delinquents' positive perceptions of fathers.

The variables, closeness to the father, perceived amount of father love, amount of time spent with the father, parent providing the greatest influence, parent who guides the family, agent of discipline, parent lived mainly with and perceived childhood happiness were significantly related to the delinquents' positive perceptions of fathers.

TABLE VIII

KRUSKAL-WALLIS ONE-WAY ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE OF ITKIN'S SCALE
 SCORES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RATINGS OF DELINQUENTS
 AND NON-DELINQUENTS CONCERNING FATHER IDENTIFICATION

Item	Delinquent H-Score	Level of Significance	Non-Delinquent H-Score	Level of Significance
1. You have just won a trip to Hawaii for you and one of your parents. Which one will you choose to take?	4.94	NS	11.28	.01
2. You have been falsely accused of stealing money. Which parent will you go to to ask for help?	10.40	.01	23.81	.001
3. If you were sad, which parent would you go to to cheer you up?	10.65	.01	14.84	.001
4. If you had a fight with a friend, which parent would you tell?	3.97	NS	9.83	.01
5. If you got V.D., which parent would you ask for advice?	4.55	NS	22.86	.001
6. Whom would you rather discuss your problems with?	12.24	.01	27.42	.001

TABLE IX
 CHI SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN RESPONSES
 OF DELINQUENTS AND NON-DELINQUENTS

Variable	N	df	χ^2	p
Masculinity of father	139	2	2.07	.01
Type of punishment used by the father	143	2	12.13	.01
Closeness to the father	140	2	6.84	.05
Father's love	149	2	10.79	.01
Amount of time father desired to spend with respondent	150	2	3.47	NS
Parent who influenced respondent the most	139	2	8.55	.05
Parent who guided the family	143	2	5.10	NS
Agent of discipline	143	2	14.84	.001
Respondent's masculinity	133	2	14.55	.001
Parents' marital status	140	2	37.29	.001
Whom the respondent resided with	146	3	38.47	.001
Father's educational level	125	2	0.40	NS
Childhood happiness	145	2	16.24	.001
Age	148	1	7.41	.01

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this research was to examine the perceptions of non-delinquent and delinquent female adolescents concerning their fathers in relation to selected background variables. The study included 170 American-born youth between the ages of fourteen and eighteen attending either Girls Town in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, or Guthrie Public High School in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

The questionnaire employed in this study included Attitudes Toward Parents Scale (Form F) by Itkin (1952) and Father Identification Scale. The Form F scale was designed to assess perceptions concerning fathers. In order to ascertain the usefulness of Itkin's instrument, an item analysis was undertaken utilizing a chi-square test. All of the items proved to discriminate high and low scoring students ($Q_1 - Q_4$) at the .001 level of significance, reflecting the instrument's usefulness with the type of sample studied.

In general, the major results were as follows:

1. The majority of the respondents perceived their fathers to be very masculine, while almost half of the delinquent respondents considered themselves as at least average or above in masculinity.

2. The majority of the girls reported that their discipline from both the mother and the father was moderate spanking.

3. The non-delinquent girls had a very happy childhood while the delinquents had an average or below average childhood.

4. The majority of the delinquents responded that the head of the household was equally shared by the mother and the father and the non-delinquents reported the father as the head of the household.

5. Almost half of the delinquents considered themselves as average or above average in masculinity, compared to none of the non-delinquents considering themselves as masculine.

6. The majority of non-delinquents perceived their father as loving them very much and the delinquents felt they were not loved by their father.

7. The majority of the non-delinquents respected their fathers and rated their fathers as fair, unselfish, helpful, considerate, agreeable, kind, affectionate, understanding, warm, sympathetic, courteous, and trustful.

8. The majority of the delinquents perceived their fathers as unfair, selfish, inconsiderate, not agreeable, untrustful and uncourteous.

9. The following factors were found to be significantly related to delinquent girls' attitudes toward their fathers: (a) closeness to the father, (b) perceived amount of father love, (c) parent providing the greatest influence, (d) parent who guides the family, (e) agent of discipline, (f) parent lived mainly with, and (g) childhood happiness.

10. The following factors were significantly related to the non-delinquent girls' perceptions of their fathers: (a) degree of masculinity of the father, (b) closeness to the family, (c) amount of time spent with the father, (d) parent providing the greatest influence,

(e) parent who guides the family, (f) parents' marital status, and (g) perceived childhood happiness.

All of the findings in this study corroborated the conclusions sited in the review of literature. It pointed out that the father is very significant in the life of his daughter in terms of sex role identification and perceived childhood happiness. In general, delinquent girls in this study rated their fathers as poor models compared to the non-delinquent's perceptions of their fathers as more adequate in terms of need-fulfilling individuals. More importantly, this study pointed out the extensive need for a strong family unit for the success and well-being of its children.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

1. In growing up if your father was absent from the home for long periods of time please mark the age at which he first left your home.
 - a. 1-3 years
 - b. 4-5 years
 - c. 6-7 years
 - d. 8 and over
 - e. was never present
 - f. was always present

2. If your father was absent for long periods of time please mark the reason from the following:
 - a. separation
 - b. divorce
 - c. war
 - d. dissolution
 - e. death
 - f. long sickness
 - g. other (reason) _____

3. Describe what your father actually does at work: _____

4. In school your father completed grades:
 - a. none
 - b. 1-4 years
 - c. 5-8 years
 - d. 9-11 years
 - e. graduated from high school
 - f. completed 1-3 years of college
 - g. graduated from a 4 year college
 - h. completed over 4 years

5. How many years of schooling have you completed? _____

6. Your present age is _____. Place of birth _____.

7. Your race:
 - a. Black
 - b. Indian
 - c. Latin
 - d. White
 - e. Other _____.

8. The main source of your family's income is:
 - a. hourly wages, piece work, weekly wages
 - b. salary, commissions, monthly checks
 - c. savings and investments, earned by my father or mother
 - d. profits from a business
 - e. welfare, odd jobs, share cropping, seasonal work, charity, or social security.

9. In my own family, my:
_____ a. father runs the family with no help from my mother
_____ b. father runs the family with some help from my mother
_____ c. mother and father run the family about equally
_____ d. mother runs the family with some help from my father
_____ e. mother runs the family with no help from my father
10. In growing up, I have been:
_____ a. very happy
_____ b. somewhat above average in happiness
_____ c. average in happiness
_____ d. somewhat below average in happiness
_____ e. very unhappy
11. I have never had any reason to be angry with either of my parents.
_____ True _____ False
12. In growing up, have you and your mother been:
_____ a. very close
_____ b. above average in closeness
_____ c. average in closeness
_____ d. below average
_____ e. very much below average
13. In my family the discipline I received was mainly from:
_____ a. my father
_____ b. my father with some help from my mother
_____ c. my mother with some help from my father
_____ d. my mother
_____ e. other (relationship) _____
14. Which best describes the type of physical punishment you usually receive from your father?
_____ a. none
_____ b. moderate spanking
_____ c. beating
_____ d. severe beating or whipping (with belt, stick, etc.)
_____ e. injury-causing beating (such as broken bones, knocked-out teeth, or unconsciousness)
15. My mother has always tried to give me everything I wanted.
_____ True _____ False
16. Which best describes the type of physical punishment you usually receive from your mother?
_____ a. none
_____ b. moderate spanking
_____ c. beating
_____ d. severe beating or whipping (with belt, stick, etc.)
_____ e. injury-causing beating (such as broken bones, knocked-out teeth, or unconsciousness)

17. Which parent had the greatest influence in your life.
_____ a. mother and father equally
_____ b. mother
_____ c. father
18. In my home, I feel that I am loved by my father:
_____ a. very much
_____ b. above average
_____ c. average
_____ d. below average
_____ e. not at all
19. In my home, I feel that I am loved by my mother:
_____ a. very much
_____ b. above average
_____ c. average
_____ d. below average
_____ e. not at all
20. I would consider my father:
_____ a. very highly masculine (manlike)
_____ b. highly masculine
_____ c. of average masculinity
_____ d. of low masculinity
_____ e. of very low masculinity
21. There are times when my parents do things that make me unhappy or angry.
_____ True _____ False
22. I would consider myself:
_____ a. very highly masculine (manlike)
_____ b. highly masculine
_____ c. of average masculinity
_____ d. of low masculinity
_____ e. of very low masculinity
23. While growing up, I have lived most with my:
_____ a. mother
_____ b. father and mother
_____ c. father
_____ d. grandfather
_____ e. other (relationship) _____
24. Which would describe your father's discipline to you?
_____ a. fair
_____ b. too soft most of the time
_____ c. too hard most of the time
_____ d. too inconsistent (I never knew what he would do)
25. I have never done anything which I was ashamed of.
_____ True _____ False

26. When I do something wrong at home, I:
 _____ a. know that I will not be punished for it
 _____ b. can usually figure out in advance what will happen to me
 _____ c. am not sure what will happen
 _____ d. am afraid of the punishment
27. Do you feel that you have control over what is going to happen to you during your life?
 _____ yes _____ no _____ undecided
28. Do you feel that there is someone you can count on outside your family when you really need help?
 _____ yes _____ no _____ If yes, who (relationship) _____

29. Do you feel that your life is meaningless and a waste of time?
 _____ yes _____ no _____ undecided
30. Do you have specific goals that you are working for in life?
 _____ yes _____ no _____ undecided
31. Do you feel that you have never succeeded at anything?
 _____ yes _____ no _____ undecided
32. You have just won a trip to Hawaii for you and one of your parents. Which parent will you choose to take?
 _____ Mother _____ Father _____ Neither
33. You have been falsely accused of stealing money. Which parent will you go to to ask for help?
 _____ Mother _____ Father _____ Neither
34. If you were sad, which of your parents would you go to to cheer you up?
 _____ Mother _____ Father _____ Neither
35. If you had just had a fight with your best friend, which of your parents would you tell?
 _____ Mother _____ Father _____ Neither
36. Sometimes I can't help worrying, even though I know that it doesn't do any good.
 _____ True _____ False
37. If you got V.D., which of your parents would you ask for advice?
 _____ Mother _____ Father _____ Neither
38. Who would you rather discuss your problems with?
 _____ Mother _____ Father _____ Other (relationship) _____

39. My parents are presently:
- a. married and living together
 - b. separated
 - c. divorced
 - d. one or both dead
 - e. other _____

40. I am constantly amazed at how well my parents understand me.
- True False

Following is a list of statements which might be answered as true, false, or not certain. Mark the one which best fits you. Circle T for True, F for False and ? for uncertain.

- T ? F 41. I consider myself very close to my father.
- T ? F 42. My father generally has good reasons for any requests he might make.
- T ? F 43. I would like to be the same kind of a parent that my father has been.
- T ? F 44. I believe that my father doesn't know how much I can do.
- T ? F 45. I believe my father finds fault with me more often than I deserve, he never seems to like anything I do.
- T ? F 46. I believe that my father has little respect for my opinion.
- T ? F 47. In my estimation, my father is not greatly interested in whether or not I have friends.
- T ? F 48. In my judgment, my father did not treat me fairly when I was young.
- T ? F 49. I believe that my father is one of the best persons I know.
- T ? F 50. My father has been one of the best friends I have ever had.
- T ? F 51. My father considers the rearing of his children his most important job in life.

52. My father...
- a. takes a very great interest in everything that concerns his children
 - b. takes a moderate amount of interest in things which concern his children
 - c. takes average interest in things which concern his children
 - d. takes little interest in things which concern children

- _____ e. takes no interest in things which concern his children.
53. I get along with my father...
- _____ a. very well
- _____ b. well
- _____ c. fairly well
- _____ d. not very well
- _____ e. not at all
54. I trust my father enough to...
- _____ a. feel free to ask him personal questions
- _____ b. often ask him personal questions
- _____ c. sometimes ask him personal questions
- _____ d. rarely if ever ask him personal questions
- _____ e. wouldn't think of asking him any personal questions
55. Check whichever of the following terms best describes your feelings toward your father:
- _____ a. I like my father very much
- _____ b. I like my father
- _____ c. I neither like nor dislike my father
- _____ d. I dislike my father
- _____ e. I dislike my father very much
56. Check whichever of the following descriptions most nearly fits your father:
- _____ a. is always critical of his children
- _____ b. is sometimes critical of his children
- _____ c. is not very critical of his children
- _____ d. sometimes shows pleasure at what his children do
- _____ e. very often shows pleasure about his children
57. My father...
- _____ a. never does little things for his children to show affection or consideration
- _____ b. seldom does little things for his children to show affection or consideration
- _____ c. sometimes does little things for his children to show affection or consideration
- _____ d. often does little things for his children to show affection or consideration
- _____ e. is always doing little things for his children to show affection or consideration
58. In my opinion, my father...
- _____ a. is so attached to his children that he wants to have them around all the time
- _____ b. enjoys spending some of his time with his children
- _____ c. likes to spend a little of his time with his children
- _____ d. does not like to spend time with his children
- _____ e. dislikes very much spending any of his time with his children

The following is a list of characteristics of people. Compare your father to the item and circle the letter which represents him best. Mark according to how much he has: A = very much; B = above average; C = less than average; D = very little; E = none.

- A B C D E 59. Fair
- A B C D E 60. Selfish
- A B C D E 61. Envious
- A B C D E 62. Affectionate
- A B C D E 63. Helpful
- A B C D E 64. Sarcastic
- A B C D E 65. Considerate
- A B C D E 66. Bossy
- A B C D E 67. Agreeable
- A B C D E 68. Kind
- A B C D E 69. Understanding
- A B C D E 70. Cold
- A B C D E 71. Suspicious
- A B C D E 72. Sympathetic
- A B C D E 73. Courteous
- A B C D E 74. Trustful

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