

**Destructive Behavior Among Selected Malate Manila Street Children
and its Relation to Criminal Propensity**

**An Undergraduate Thesis
Presented to
The Faculty of Behavioral Sciences Department
De La Salle University – Dasmariñas**



**In Partial Fulfillment
Of the requirements of the Course
AB Psychology**

By:

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ABSTRACT

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This study focused on the relationship that exist between subjective well-being and criminal propensity among Malate, Manila Street Children.

SPECIFIC

1. To measure the level of destructive behaviors of the street children as revealed in the following factors:
 - a. Physical Aggression

- b. Verbal Aggression
 - c. Hostile Aggression
2. To measure the level of criminal propensity of the respondents as revealed in the following factors:
- a. Retribution
 - b. Recidivism
 - c. Conduct Problems
3. To determine if there is significant relationship that exists between destructive behavior and criminal propensity.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE:

The main focus of the study is to describe the destructive behavior of selected Malate Manila Street children and determine if it is related to criminal propensity. The study will explore the aggressive behavior of Malate street children including the causes and extent of the destructive behavior. The respondents range from 7-11 years old male and female who live and work in the streets of Malate. It is noted that the chosen respondents are uninstitutionalized. However, this research only seeks to study the relationship of destructive behavior and criminal propensity. It does not explore the effects of the behavior in the individual and society. The results of

this research are based on the participants of this research. The data gathered from the two groups of respondents are then compared.

METHODOLOGY:

The study used the descriptive correlational research design since it focused on identifying the relationship of destructive behavior and criminal propensity. It is the method of organizing, summarizing, presenting, measuring and describing the relationship between two variables (Fox, as cited in Sevilla, 1992). The descriptive correlational method is appropriate for the study since the researchers examined the relationship of the two variables.

The respondents of the study were 15 girls and 15 boys from Malate street children. As cited in Sevilla (1992), 30 respondents is appropriate in such a case. This presented the minimum acceptable size from big population, designed for correlational researches. They were chosen through the purposive technique, which was characterized by the use of judgment and a deliberate effort to obtain representative samples by including representative groups in the sample.

The research instruments that the researchers used to obtain data were: (1) Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire to gauge the level of

destructive behavior of the respondents and (2) self-made test to gauge the level of criminal propensity of the respondents. The test on destructive behavior was comprised of 30 items questionnaire and the test on criminal propensity was comprised of 17 items. Both tests are answerable by Lichert scale.

The researchers conducted non-participant observation to describe the behavior of Malate street children. The researchers went to the area and conducted informal interviews with the barangay officials to establish a network before the actual data gathering. The children were grouped by threes for the test administration. After the respondents had took test, the test scores were then measured by a statistician in order to see whether the variables are positively or negatively correlated.

MAJOR FINDINGS:

Based on the study conducted by the researchers, the following results were gathered. Among the 30 respondents, 53% of the respondents were high in destructive behavior and 36% of the respondents were high in criminal propensity. This means that 69% of the respondents who were high on destructive behavior also scored high on criminal propensity.

The level of destructive behavior among the Malate street children, as revealed in the standardized test falls under the mean of 76.67. This implied that the respondents were high on destructive behavior. The level of criminal propensity among the Malate street children, as revealed in the self-made test falls under the mean of 41.9 This implies that the respondents are high on criminal propensity.

The results of the tests show that there is a significant relationship between destructive behavior and criminal propensity because the t-computed (6.402) is greater than the t-tabulated (2.045) at 0.05 level of significance. Based on the results of the study, the mean score of male street children on destructive behavior was 85.66 while the mean score for female was 67.07. This suggests that the male street children were more aggressive than females.

Based on the results of the tests, the mean score of male street children on criminal propensity was 48.07 while the mean score for female was 35.60. This implies that the male street children have higher level of criminal propensity than females.

CONCLUSIONS:

Based on the result of the study, the researchers conclude that the environment such as the area of residence, family and friends affects the level of destructive behavior and criminal propensity. It also supported other findings that males are more aggressive than females. Males have higher level of criminal propensity compared to females.

It is noted that the level of destructive behavior among street children as revealed by the standardized test is high. This means that the environment, family and friends strongly affect the behavior of the street children. The over all level of criminal propensity among street children as revealed by the self-made test is low. However, the male scored high on criminal propensity unlike the female who scored low on the propensity. The difference of scores between the male and female affected the over all score on criminal propensity. The result of the study concludes that there is a positive and significant relationship between destructive behavior and criminal propensity among selected street children of Malate, Manila.