



Beni- Sueif University

Faculty of Arts

Sociology Department

**The Primary Groups and The Juvenile Delinquency:
A Field Study on A Sample of Delinquent Juveniles and
NonDelinquent in Beni-Sueif Governate**

**A Dissertation Submitted by:
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Abstract

**Title: The Primary Groups and The Juvenile Delinquency:
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Supervision: Prof. Talaat Ibrahim Lotfy

Degree: Ph.D.

Specialization: Sociology

The present study aimed at identifying forms of delinquent behavior, its causes; the construction of the initial groups to which the delinquent juveniles belong; the functions of these initial groups, and the impact of the involvement of juvenile with members of these groups on the juvenile's education and acquisition of delinquent behavior.

In order to answer the research questions and validate the hypotheses of the present study, the researcher employed the experimental approach by comparing two groups. The first group was the Experimental group consists of (122) juveniles selected from delinquent juveniles who have been arrested as a result of committing a felony or a misdemeanor. The second group is the Control Group consists of (122) normal juveniles who have never been reported to commit any felony or misdemeanor.

The researcher depended on several research techniques; namely, direct observations and interview schedules for the collection of data for the present study. In addition, the researcher also

employed the methodology of content analysis of the documents and records of the data that does not require a direct contact with the participants of the study.

The study consists of two sections which comprise eight chapters. The first section offered the theoretical framework, and research methodology used in the present study. This section was divided into three chapters: Chapter I included the aims and key concepts of the study. Chapter II expostulated the theoretical rationale of the study. Chapter Three contained a critical review of the literature that directly or indirectly related to the subject of the present study.

The second section of this study presented the results of the field study, and includes five chapters. Chapter IV presented the plan of the field study. Chapter V offered some forms of delinquent behavior and the appropriateness of their penalties. Chapter VI tackled the juvenile's family and juvenile delinquency. Chapter VII illustrated group involvement and juvenile delinquency. Finally, Chapter VIII focused on group play and juvenile delinquency.

The results of the present study supported the validity of the following hypotheses:

- 1. Theft is considered one of the most prevalent forms of crimes among juvenile delinquents.**
- 2. Preliminary groups in which delinquent behavior is prevalent tend impose these patterns of delinquent behavior on their members.**
- 3. Reward is more effective than punishment in confronting delinquent behavior.**

- 4. The disintegration of the family is one of the most important factor leading to the delinquent behavior.**
- 5. Juvenile crime rates are higher in poor areas of the city in comparison to their counterparts in other areas.**
- 6. The delinquent behavior is an acquired behavior that is learned and practiced through a process of communication and interaction with juvenile delinquents in the primary groups.**
- 7. The contact between the juveniles with other juvenile delinquents who break the law in the primary group is more powerful than the contact with the normal juveniles in acquiring the delinquent behavior.**
- 8. There is a relationship between the social traditions prevailing in the primary groups of juvenile delinquents and patterns of delinquent behavior.**