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# THE EFFECTS OF PERSONALITY TRAITS AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS OF ADOLESCENTS ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY<sup>1</sup>

## Ergenlerin Bazı Kişilik ve Aile Özelliklerinin Suç Davranışına Etkisi

Dr. Derya KAYMA

Adalet Bakanlığı, İzmir Adli Destek ve Mağdur Hizmetleri Müdürlüğü, İzmir, TÜRKİYE

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7014-8631>

Prof. Dr. Rıza GÖKLER

Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt Üniversitesi, Sağlık Bilimleri Fakültesi, Sosyal Hizmet Bölümü, Anabilim Dalı, Ankara/TÜRKİYE

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9821-4095>

### ABSTRACT

In this study, it was aimed to analyze the effects of personality traits and family characteristics of adolescents on juvenile delinquency. The research is a correlational model among quantitative research methods. A total of 213 adolescents pushed to crime selected with purposive sampling method participated in the study. A "Demographic Information Form" developed by the researchers has used to determine the adolescents' sociodemographic characteristics. The "Parental Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire" (PARQ/C) was used to identify the family characteristics of adolescents; the "Personality Assessment Questionnaire" (PAQ) was used to determine their personality traits; the "Delinquent Behavior Scale" (DBS) was used to determine the levels of delinquent behaviors of adolescents. Multiple linear regression analysis was used to analyze the study data. PAQ ( $t=2.983, p<.01$ ), PARQ (Mother) ( $t=7.273, p<.01$ ), PARQ (Father) ( $t=.840, p<.01$ ), and maternal control ( $t=2.005, p<.05$ ) positively and significantly predict DBS total score. The results revealed that maternal acceptance-rejection, paternal acceptance-rejection, personality traits and maternal control significantly predicted juvenile delinquency. Accordingly, adolescents' being rejected by their parents, having poor personality traits and being subjected to restrictive maternal control increase their delinquency.

**Key Words:** Family characteristics, juvenile delinquency, parental acceptance-rejection, parental control, personality traits

### ÖZET

Bu çalışmada ergenlerin kişilik ve aile özelliklerinin suç davranışına etkisini incelemek amaçlanmıştır. Araştırma nicel araştırma yöntemlerinden yordamaya dönük ilişki tarama modelindedir. Araştırmaya amaçsal örnekleme yöntemi ile seçilen toplam 213 suça sürüklenen ergen katılmıştır. Ergenlerin sosyodemografik özelliklerini belirlemek için araştırmacı tarafından geliştirilmiş "Kişisel Bilgi Formu" (KBF) kullanılmıştır. Ergenlerin aile özelliklerini belirleyebilmek için "Ebeveyn Kabul-Red/Kontrol Ölçeği" (EKRÖ/K), kişilik özelliklerini belirleyebilmek için "Kişilik Değerlendirme Ölçeği" (KİDÖ), suç davranışları seviyesini belirleyebilmek için "Suç Davranışı Ölçeği" (SDÖ) kullanılmıştır. Verilerin analizinde çoklu regresyon analizi kullanılmıştır. KİDÖ ( $t=2.983, p<.01$ ), Anne EKRÖ ( $t=7.273, p<.01$ ), Baba EKRÖ ( $t=6.840, p<.01$ ), ve anne kontrolü ( $t=2.005, p<.05$ ), SDÖ toplam puanını anlamlı bir şekilde ve pozitif yönlü yordamaktadır. Araştırma sonuçlarına göre; anne kabul-reddi, baba kabul-reddi, kişilik ve anne kontrolü ergenlerin suç davranışlarını anlamlı bir şekilde yordamaktadır. Buna göre; ergenlerin ebeveynleri tarafından reddedilmesi, sağlıksız kişilik özelliklerine sahip olması ve kısıtlayıcı anne kontrolüne maruz kalması ergenlerin suç davranışını arttırmaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Aile özellikleri, çocuk suçluluğu, ebeveyn kabul-reddi, ebeveyn kontrolü, kişilik özellikleri

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Effective interventions for juvenile delinquency that emerge during childhood may be able to prevent criminal acts that are likely to recur during adulthood. Therefore, understanding the causes of juvenile delinquency that occurs in childhood is critical in terms of taking preventive measures and developing effective rehabilitative interventions. For these reasons, the field of juvenile delinquency has been the focus of attention for many disciplines, such as social work, criminology, psychology, sociology, and law, which have been dealing with delinquency for years. Juvenile delinquency is defined legally as the child's confrontation with the criminal justice system as a result of its act which is accepted as a crime by the criminal codes (Akyüz, 2000). While the discipline of sociology explains juvenile delinquency as the child's contradicting the social values and rules of society, psychology explains it as the child's confrontation with the law due to individual inabilities (Hablemitoğlu, 2011).

Temel and Aksoy (2016) state that the causes of juvenile delinquency can be categorized into two groups as individual causes (child-oriented) and environmental causes (family, school, peer, community), and Baykara Acar (2009) discusses the causes pushing the child into crime into three dimensions as micro (child and family), mezzo (school, peer, studying time, leisure time), and macro (country's social and economic policies, migration, social and cultural structure, media, the social welfare system, and the justice system). Sullivan and Wilson (1995) indicate that individual, familial, social, and cultural factors are critical in the development of juvenile delinquency. In this study, the delinquent behaviors of adolescents were examined for individual and familial causes. Personality traits of adolescents were examined within the scope of personal causes, and the effect of parental acceptance-rejection and control on juvenile delinquency was examined within the scope of familial causes.

According to Schaefer (1959), there are two essential variables in the parent-child relationship. The first is acceptance and rejection, and the second is control and autonomy, in other words, the control dimension (Gander & Gander, 1998; Duyan, 2011). Parents display four basic rejectionist attitudes and behaviors to their children. These are warmth/affection, hostility/aggression, indifference/neglect, and undifferentiated rejection (Rohner, 2015). The child's being exposed to cold behaviors, hostile feelings, aggressive behaviors, indifferent attitudes, and negligent behaviors of its parents can cause parental rejection. Researches on juvenile delinquency show that there is a positive relationship between parental rejection and juvenile delinquency (Unnever, Cullen & Agnew, 2006; Uludağlı, 2011; Arslan & Balkıs, 2014; Surbanovska, Kıtkanj & Ristovska, 2017). Okorodudu (2010) states that most of the children pushed into crime come from families without parental affection and control. Therefore, there is a positive relationship between negative parental support and juvenile delinquency (Simons, Robertson & Downs, 1989; Juang & Silbereisen, 1999; Hoeve, Dubas, Eichelsheim, Laan, Smeenk & Gerris, 2009; Uludağlı, 2011), while there is a negative relationship between parental control and juvenile delinquency (Ünal, 2010; Uludağlı, 2011; Arslan & Balkıs, 2014; Mckoy & Cui, 2013). Hence, positive parental support and parental control can be asserted to have a preventive effect on juvenile delinquency.

The child acquires attitudes and behaviors by observing its parents in the developmental stage. In this learning process, children can imitate many personality traits of their parents (Özdemir, Özdemir, Kadak & Nasıroğlu, 2012). Therefore, parents play a critical role in the personality development of their children. Seven personality dispositions can be observed in children depending on parental acceptance and rejection, such as hostility/ aggression, independence, emotional responsiveness, self-esteem, self-adequacy, worldview, and emotional stability (Rohner, Khaleque & Cournoyer, 2012). Accordingly, children with poor personality structure have hostile emotions, aggressive attitudes, low self-esteem and self-adequacy, and negative worldview, and they can show dependent, emotionally irresponsive personality dispositions. The research investigating the relationship between juvenile delinquency and personality emphasizes that adolescents pushed into crime have poorer personality traits than non-pushed ones (Çetin, 2005), and that poor personality traits are important predictors of the development of children's problem behaviors (Siyez & Aysan, 2007). In conclusion, this study aimed to determine the effects of personality traits and family characteristics on juvenile delinquency.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

### 2.1. Methods and Participants

This research was designed as predictive correlational research. In this cross-sectional study, purposeful sampling was carried out by using a non-random sampling method. Data were collected between September 2016 and July 2017. Total of 256 adolescents volunteered to participate in the research were reached, but the information of 43 adolescents were not included in the data set due to deficiencies. A total of 213 adolescents between the ages of 13-17 (155 males and 58 females), who were tried in the Juvenile Courts in Ankara with the alleged crimes in Ankara, were included in the research by obtaining parental consent. 62.9% of adolescents attended high schools, and 10.8% attended middle schools. 20.2% of adolescents were middle school graduates, and 6.1% were primary school graduates, and they did not attend any educational institution. While 181 of the adolescents continued to live with both parents, four adolescents stayed in institutional care centers, and 28 lived with a single parent. The ethic permissions for research were obtained from the The Ethic Committee of Yildirim Beyazıt University on 02.06.2016 with number 330 and The Ministry of Justice, Judges and Prosecutors High Council on 30.06.2016 with number 28501.

### 2.2. Measures

A "Demographic Information Form" (DIF) was developed by the researcher to identify the sociodemographic characteristics of the participants. In addition, The "Parental Acceptance-Rejection/Control Scale" (PARQ/C) was used to determine the family characteristics of adolescents; the "Personality Assessment Questionnaire" (PAQ) was used to determine their personality traits; the "Delinquent Behavior Scale" (DBS) was used to determine the levels of delinquent behaviors of adolescents.

The PARQ/C, which is administered to children and adolescents, was first developed with only the parental acceptance and rejection dimensions by Rohner, Saavedra, and Granum (1978) to evaluate the parental acceptance and rejection perceived by children and adolescents. Later, Rohner (1987) improved the scale by adding the parental control dimension. The 73-item scale measures parental acceptance-rejection through the sub-scales of warmth/affection, undifferentiated rejection, hostility/aggression, indifference/neglect, and (parental) control sub-scale. Parental acceptance increases as participants' scores decrease, but parental rejection increases as the scores increase. The increase in the scores obtained on the control sub-scale refers to the control from loose to strict (Rohner, 2005). The scale was adapted to Turkish by Varan in 2003. The internal consistency coefficient of the parent version of the PARQ/C was found to be .96, while the internal consistency coefficients of the sub-scales were between .82 and .96. On the other hand, the internal consistency coefficient of the control sub-scale was found to be .74 for the mother version and .73. for the father version. In the confirmatory factor analysis conducted within the scope of the validity study of the scale, the construct validity was tested, and a total of 16 clusters consisting of three/four items were created, as in the study of Rohner. After the analysis, 16 clusters were found to be loaded on two different factors, as expected. The clusters loaded on these two factors, whose eigenvalues were 8.83 and 2.01 for the mother version and 9.18 and 2.22 for the father version, resulted in two different factors, "Rejection and Acceptance." Rejection and Acceptance factors explain 67.75% (for mother) and 71.24% (for father) of the variance. In the factor analysis of the control sub-scale, five different clusters were found, these clusters were loaded to two factors and the factors were called as "permissiveness and restriction." The total variance explained by the two factors was found to be 73.94% (father) and 71.53% (mother). In the light of these data, it was evaluated that the Turkish version of the PARQ/C could reliably and validly measure the parental acceptance-rejection and control perceived by children and adolescents (Varan, 2003). In this study, the reliability coefficients (Cronbach Alfa) of both versions of the PARQ/C were found to be .98 and .98 for total score, .96 and .98 for warmth/ affection, .94 and .97 for hostility/ aggression, .94 and .97 for indifference/ neglect, .92 and .97 for undifferentiated rejection, and .74 and .69 for control.

The PAQ developed by Rohner, Saaverda, and Granum is a self-report scale developed for children and adolescents to assess themselves according to seven personality dispositions. The 42-item scale consists of seven sub-scales: hostility/aggression, dependence, self-esteem, self-adequacy, emotional stability, emotional responsiveness and worldview. Low scores show that the respondent's psychological adjustment is "healthy," and high scores indicate an "unhealthy" personality (Rohner &Khaleque, 2005). In the Turkish



adaptation study, it was observed that Cronbach's Alpha internal consistency coefficients of the subscales of the PAQ ranged between .53 and .80. This was .86 for the total score. Although it seems that the PAQ has higher internal consistency coefficients than the PAQ, the abovementioned coefficients are higher than the coefficients obtained by Rohner and his colleagues in the original reliability and validity study of the PAQ. Factor analysis results of the PAQ also support the validity of the scale in our country. The total variance explained by the specified factor is 75.81%. It was evaluated that the Turkish version of the PAQ could reliably and validly measure the psychological adjustments of Turkish children and adolescents (Varan, 2003). In this study, the reliability coefficients were .93 for the total score, .67 for dependence, .95 for hostility aggression, .74 for self-esteem, .76 for self-adequacy, .77 for emotional responsiveness, .86 for emotional stability, and .88 for worldview.

The DBS developed by Kaner was used to identify the levels of delinquent behaviors of adolescents. The DBS is a self-report scale developed to identify behaviors among adolescents that are considered illegal activities by security forces and lead adolescents to confront with legal procedures. Kaner primarily examined relevant scales in the literature during the development phase of this scale and created an item pool. Principal Components Analysis was performed while testing the construct validity of the scale, and an 11-factor structure was obtained. It was found that the remaining 38 items were clustered under nine factors. In the reliability study, it was determined that the Cronbach Alpha values of the sub-scales ranged between .85 and .72, and this value was found to be .93 for the total score. The items in the scale are rated as 4-point Likert type, and minimum and maximum scores that can be obtained are 38 and 152, respectively. It is considered that the level of delinquent behavior decreases as the scores decrease in the scale consisting of 38 items (Kaner, 2002). In this study, the Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficient of the DBS was calculated as .96.

### 2.3. Statistical Analyses

The data collected from the participants were processed into the computer environment using the SPSS-22 (The Statistical Package Program for Social Sciences). In accordance with the objectives of the research, analyses were conducted to prepare the data for multivariate analyses and to check the assumptions before the initiation of the multivariate regression analysis. In this context, outliers were determined (Z scoring, Mahalanobis test) and normality, linearity, autocorrelation (Durbin-Watson test), and multicollinearity were tested. It was observed that the assumptions were met as a result of the preliminary analyses, and then, multiple regression analysis was performed. In the analyses, the upper limit of the margin of error was taken as .05.

### 2.4. Study Limitations

This study is one of a limited number of studies examining the effect of family and personality traits on juvenile delinquency. The study explains the causality relationship between juvenile delinquency and the variables taken. One of the limitations is that macro causes are not included in the study that deals with micro and macro causes of juvenile delinquency. In the study, the condition of the adolescents participating in the study to be volunteers and to have parent approvals was taken. Therefore, a limited number of adolescents participated in the study. In the future studies, it is suggested to involve more adolescents and to add macro causes to variables.

## 3. RESULTS

In this study, which aimed to determine the effect of some personality traits and family characteristics of adolescents on juvenile delinquency, independent variables were parental acceptance-rejection/control (mother and father) measured with the PARQ/C and its sub-scales, as well as personality traits of adolescents measured with the PAQ and its sub-scales. Delinquent behavior measured with the DBS was analyzed as the dependent variable. Accordingly, multiple regression analysis was first performed with PARQ/C (mother and father) and PAQ total scores, and the results are given in Table 1 (Part 1). The scores on the sub-scales of the PAQ (hostility/aggression, dependence, self-esteem, self-adequacy, emotional responsiveness, emotional stability, and worldview) and DBS total scores were analyzed to determine which personality traits influence juvenile delinquency, and the results are given in Table 1 (Part 2). Then, the scores on the sub-scales of the PARQ/C (warmth/affection, hostility/aggression, indifference/neglect, undifferentiated rejection, and control) and DBS total scores were analyzed to identify which family

characteristics influence juvenile delinquency, and the results are presented in Table 1 for both mother (Part 3) and father (Part 4).

Part 1 reveals that there are high and significant relationships among PAQ, PARQ (mother and father), and Control (mother and father) total scores and DBS total scores ( $R=0.835$ ,  $R^2=0.698$ ,  $p<.01$ ). All specified variables explain 70% of the variance together. According to the T-Test results regarding the significance of the regression coefficients, while the scores on the PAQ ( $t=2.983$ ,  $p<.01$ ), PARQ (Mother) ( $t=7.273$ ,  $p<.01$ ), PARQ (Father) ( $t = 6.840$ ,  $p<.01$ ), and maternal control ( $t=2.005$ ,  $p<.05$ ) positively and significantly predict DBS total score, this is not the case for paternal control ( $t=0.081$ ,  $p>.05$ ).

**Table 1: Beta Correlation Coefficients of the Variables and Significance Levels**

	Variable	B	SE	$\beta$	T	p	Binary r	Partial r
<b>Part 1</b>								
R= 0.835 R <sup>2</sup> =0.698 F <sub>(5, 207)</sub> =95.681 p = .000	Invariant	-18.428	9.429	-	-1.954	.052	-	-
	PAQ	0.207	0.069	0.170	2.983	<b>.003</b>	0.688	0.203
	PARQ-Mother	0.251	0.034	0.389	7.273	<b>.000</b>	0.740	0.451
	PARQ-Father	0.167	0.024	0.385	6.840	<b>.000</b>	0.738	0.429
	Maternal Control	0.373	0.186	0.082	2.005	<b>.046</b>	0.124	0.138
	Paternal Control	0.015	0.185	0.004	0.081	.935	-0.236	0.006
<b>Part 2</b>								
R= 0.872 R <sup>2</sup> =0.761 F <sub>(7, 205)</sub> =93.370 p = .000	Invariant	33.526	6.107	-	5.489	.000	-	-
	Hostility/Aggression	4.479	0.309	1.068	14.504	<b>.000</b>	0.854	0.712
	Dependence	-0.484	0.242	-0.073	-2.002	<b>.047</b>	-0.169	-0.139
	Self-esteem	-0.874	0.512	-0.115	-1.107	.090	0.299	-0.118
	Self-adequacy	0.633	0.480	0.084	1.319	.188	0.362	0.092
	Emotional Unresponsive	0.552	0.321	0.085	1.720	.087	0.500	0.119
	Emotional Instability	-1.069	0.392	-0.204	-2.728	<b>.007</b>	0.687	-0.187
	Worldview	-0.673	0.338	-0.118	-1.988	<b>.048</b>	0.522	-0.138
<b>Part 3</b>								
R= 0.764 R <sup>2</sup> =0.584 F <sub>(5, 207)</sub> =58.197 p = .000	Mother							
	Invariant	2.684	8.752	-	0.307	.759	-	-
	Warmth/Affection	1.053	0.230	0.605	4.582	<b>.000</b>	0.732	0.303
	Hostility/Aggression	-0.279	0.381	-0.108	-0.734	.464	0.696	-0.051
	Indifference/Neglect	-0.741	0.438	-0.274	-1.693	.092	0.693	-0.117
	Undifferentiated Rejection	1.950	0.552	0.545	3.535	<b>.001</b>	0.730	0.239
	Control	0.304	0.214	0.067	1.422	.156	0.124	0.098
<b>Part 4</b>								
R= 0.764 R <sup>2</sup> =0.583 F <sub>(5, 207)</sub> =57.874 p = .000	Father							
	Invariant	20.407	9.210	-	2.216	.028	-	-
	Warmth/Affection	0.018	0.216	0.015	0.085	.932	0.714	0.006
	Hostility/Aggression	-1.109	0.383	-0.631	-2.893	<b>.004</b>	0.709	-0.197
	Indifference/Neglect	0.407	0.346	0.230	1.177	.241	0.725	0.082
	Undifferentiated Rejection	2.801	0.585	1.146	4.786	<b>.000</b>	0.750	0.316
	Control	0.119	0.205	0.028	0.580	.562	-0.236	0.040

The results of the regression analysis performed to determine which personality traits of adolescents predict juvenile delinquency are given in Part 2. Accordingly, there are high and significant relationships among the variables hostility/aggression, addiction/ advocating independence, self-esteem, self-adequacy, emotional responsiveness, emotional stability, and worldview and DBS total score ( $R= 0.872$ ,  $R^2=0.761$ ,  $p<.01$ ). All specified variables explain 76% of the variance together. T-Test results show that hostility/aggression ( $t=14.504$ ,  $p<.01$ ), independence ( $t=-2.002$ ,  $p<.05$ ), emotional stability ( $t=-2.728$ ,  $p<.01$ ), and worldview ( $t=-1.988$ ,  $p<.05$ ) are significant predictors of DBS total score.

The results of the multiple regression analyses performed to determine which family characteristics of adolescents predict juvenile delinquency are given in Part 3 and Part 4. According to the analysis results

given in Part 3, there are significant relationships among maternal warmth/affection, hostility/aggression, indifference/ neglect, undifferentiated rejection, and control and DBS total scores of adolescents ( $R=0.764$ ,  $R^2= 0.584$ ,  $p<.01$ ). These relationships explain approximately 58% of the total variance. T-Test results regarding the significance of the regression coefficients indicate that warmth/affection ( $t=4.582$ ,  $p<.01$ ) and undifferentiated rejection ( $t=3.535$ ,  $p<.01$ ) are positive and significant predictors of DBS total score.

Part 4 shows that there are high and significant relationships among all the sub-scales of the PARQ/C for father and DBS total scores of adolescents ( $R= 0.764$ ,  $R^2=0.583$ ,  $p<. 01$ ). All specified variables explain about 58% of the total variance. The T-Test results indicate that undifferentiated rejection ( $t= 4.786$ ,  $p<.01$ ) and hostility/aggression ( $t= -2.893$ ,  $p<.01$ ) are significant predictors of DBS total score.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

Views explaining juvenile delinquency indicate parental acceptance and rejection as the most critical familial factors in pushing children into crime (Hablemitoğlu, 2000; Junger, 2009; Okorodudu, 2010; Temel & Aksoy, 2016). In parallel with such views, the results of studies have revealed that maternal acceptance-rejection and paternal acceptance-rejection, which are among the family characteristics, positively and significantly predict juvenile delinquency. Accordingly, parental rejection has a boosting effect on juvenile delinquency. It is thought that the emotional and social needs of adolescents are not satisfied within the family environment adequately; thus, adolescents tend to meet their needs from non-family systems, such as social environment, peer group. It can be said that adolescents may be pushed into crime if there are crime risks in non-family systems that adolescents interact with. Another implication of such a finding is that adolescents who have parental acceptance can develop a more adequate and healthy emotional bond with their parents and cope better with the problems despite crime risk in their social environments. As a result, the risk of being pushed into crime can be reduced. Therefore, it can be asserted that parental acceptance can be a protective factor against juvenile delinquency. In the literature, studies investigating the relationship between negative parental support, where parents act hostile, negligent, and rejective towards the child, and juvenile delinquency show that the more negative support the parents exhibit, the higher rates the juvenile delinquency is seen, and that positive parental support has a preventive effect against crime (Simons, Robertson & Downs, 1989; Peiser & Heaven, 1996; Juang, 1999; Unnever, 2006; Ünal, 2010 Arslan & Balkıs, 2014). Surbanovska, Kitkanj and Ristovska (2017), who examined the relationship between parental acceptance-rejection and juvenile delinquency, determined that children who were pushed into crime significantly perceived their parents less often warm and experienced more parental rejection than those who were not pushed into crime. Similar results were found in another study examining juvenile delinquency. In this context, effective parenting, where children are supported emotionally and socially, and there is a close and warm relationship, is protective against juvenile delinquency.<sup>9</sup> But ineffective and inadequate parenting is a significant predictor of juvenile delinquency (Hodgins, Kratzer & McNeil, 2001).

Another result of the research is that the personality traits of adolescents positively and significantly predict juvenile delinquency. In other words, poor personality traits in adolescents have a boosting effect on juvenile delinquency. Few studies have been encountered in the literature regarding such a finding of the present study. In a study investigating personality traits and juvenile delinquency, Siyez and Aysan (2007) examined the risk factors affecting adolescents' problem behaviors and found that the risks in the personality dispositions were critical predictors of the development of problem behaviors. In the study of Çetin (2005), which compared the personality traits of adolescents pushed into crime and those not, it was determined that adolescents who were pushed into crime had poor psychological adjustment compared to the other group. Overall, personality is defined as the body of behaviors that the individual exhibits in line with its mental, emotional, motivational, and intellectual response disposition (Rohner, 2005). For this reason, poor personality development can increase the risk of children adopting problem behaviors, as well as the risk of being pushed into crime.

The results of the research revealed that maternal control positively predicted juvenile delinquency. Therefore, as restriction increases within maternal control, juvenile delinquency tends to increase. There are too many rules that are expected to be followed by the child within restrictive maternal control; the mother constantly forces the child to follow the rules. Considering this situation along with the characteristics of the adolescence period, adolescents who are in the developmental period where they emphasize more freedom may exhibit more problem behavior in response to restrictive maternal control.

Therefore, it can be suggested that the restrictive attitudes and behaviors within maternal control promote juvenile delinquency. Direktör and Çakıcı (2012) who discussed parental control in their study, found that maternal control positively predicted the psychological problems of adolescents. Another research finding suggests that increasing psychological maternal control enhances internalization and externalization problems in female adolescents and the tendency to aberrant friends and externalization problems in male adolescents (Kındap, Sayıl & Kumru, 2008).

Considering the order of importance of the variables predicting juvenile delinquency in adolescents, it is obvious that parental acceptance and rejection are more important than personality traits, which suggests that family characteristics may be more effective in the emergence of juvenile delinquency. Family characteristics, especially parents, are important factors determining what kind of personality the child will adopt. For this reason, it can be said that family characteristics are more prominent among the factors affecting juvenile delinquency in adolescents. Recent studies of criminology emphasize that familial factors and parental practices are the most important factors in pushing children into crime (Hoeve, Blocland, Dubas, Loeber, Gerris & Loan, 2008).

It can be stated that adolescents' experiencing hostile emotions and aggressive behaviors during the personality development stage increases juvenile delinquency. Such negative emotions and reduced control over them may cause adolescents not to be able to find appropriate solutions to the problems and to tend to crime-prone behaviors to solve their problems. Similarly, in Gündoğdu's (2010) study with adolescents, it was stated that as the anger levels of adolescents increased, their problem-solving skills decreased, and their physical aggression behaviors increased. Another personality trait significantly predicting juvenile delinquency is emotional stability. Accordingly, experiencing emotional instability or imbalance affects increasing criminal behavior. Emotionally balanced adolescents can cope with their problems in a healthier way without having to worry about such problems and to become angry. On the contrary, adolescents who have an imbalance in their feelings may experience intense anxiety in the face of problems and try to solve their problems with irrelevant methods by reacting more and acting impulsively; thus, they may face delinquency risks more frequently. The worldview of adolescents positively predicts juvenile delinquency. In line with this finding of the study, Çetin (2005) stated that children who were pushed into crime adopted significantly more negative worldview than those who did not; Coşkun (2010) states that a worldview with no or low fairness creates a significant difference in juvenile delinquency. It can be said that adolescents' worldviews can also shape their future expectations and wishes. It is believed that especially adolescents with cynical worldviews may not have the wishes and expectations for the future; therefore, they may not have sufficient motivation to organize and plan their lives and may exhibit more risk-taking behaviors. Independence, which is one of the personality traits of adolescents, predicts juvenile delinquency negatively. This finding shows that personality development evolving to dependence has a remarkable effect on the formation of juvenile delinquency. In dependence, the individual cannot decide on its own, has difficulty in expressing itself, hesitates to be alone, and is more prone to obedience (Öztürk, 1997). It suggests that adolescents with dependent personality characteristics may have lower self-control and may be more open to misorientation. In this context, the research findings imply that adolescents may obey the rules of their social environments not to be excluded and that the adolescents, who have difficulty in making their own decisions due to the interactions with delinquency-oriented settings, cannot ensure self-control and are misoriented; therefore, they are inclined to juvenile delinquency.

The findings in Part 3 suggest that there is a positive relationship between perceived maternal warmth/affection and juvenile delinquency, which implies that low-quality affection in the child-mother relationship may increase juvenile delinquency. According to Schaefer, the child is continuously underestimated and subjected to fear and punishment-oriented control, and there are irritable and aggressive parental behaviors in the child-mother relationship without affection (Gander & Gander, 1998; Barber, Maughan & Olsen, 2005; Demetriou & Christodoulides, 2006). While it is likely for children, who are raised in families with such a mother-child relationship, to disengage from the family relationships, it may also be likely for them to develop problem behaviors and to be pushed into crime. Vujovic and Mijanovic (2013) argue that maternal emotional neglect, namely lack of warmth, is critical in predicting delinquency during adolescence. In the study, undifferentiated rejection perceived from both parents was found to be a positive and significant predictor of juvenile delinquency. Accordingly, although there is no sign of negligent, harmful, and cold behaviors from parents, the adolescent's perception of rejection from its parents may increase juvenile delinquency. In line with the findings of the study, Marcus and Gray

(1998) found that adolescents who were pushed into crime thought as if they were rejected by their mothers more than other adolescents and defined their mothers as the ones exhibiting undifferentiated behaviors. In Çetin's (2005) study, it was determined that adolescents who were pushed into crime perceived more parental undifferentiated rejection than their peers. Adolescents who experience undifferentiated rejection perceive as if they were not loved by their parents even though they are not exposed to concrete parenting behaviors, like adolescents experiencing differentiated rejection.

In the research findings, it was determined that paternal hostility and aggression were positive and highly significant in predicting juvenile delinquency. Paternal hostile emotions and being exposed to aggressive behaviors influence the increase in juvenile delinquency. According to literature, it was previously concluded that children pushed into crime perceived significantly more paternal aggression than their peers (Çetin, 2005; Surbanovska, Kitkanj & Ristrovska, 2017) and the father's aggressive and physical abuse was a fundamental determinant in juvenile delinquency (Vujovic & Mijanovic, 2013). Therefore, it can be said that being exposed to domestic violence is important in predicting adolescent's tendency to delinquency. In addition, considering that violent behavior is among learnable behaviors, adolescents who are exposed to aggressive behaviors within the family can try to solve their problems as their parents do, which implies that adolescents who are victims of violence may become the practitioners of violence in the future. Similarly, studies investigating the relationship between violence and crime argue that physical punishment (Dembo, Wothke, Shemwell, Pacheco, Seebergen, Rollie, Schemidler & Livengston, 2000; Palmer & Hollin, 2001) and family abuse (Loeber, Wei, Hamish & Loeber 2002; Kim & Kim, 2008) significantly predict juvenile delinquency.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Parental rejection has an essential effect on juvenile delinquency. Weak affection between the adolescent and its mother, the child's perception that it is not loved and understood by its parents although there are no apparent negative parental attitudes, and the hostile parental attitudes and aggressive behaviors increase juvenile delinquency. For this reason, it is recommended to establish local family counseling centers, where parents can get support to be able to establish a warmer relationship with their children, to meet their children's affection-based emotional needs, and to gain control skills, in short, to gain effective parental skills. In these centers, which are proposed to be established, practical family training can be organized with informative and behavioral approaches on issues such as the importance of the family in protecting children against juvenile delinquency, useful parental attitudes and behaviors, and effective parental control. For adolescents with delinquent behaviors, clinical social work interventions focusing on both adolescent and family, such as multi-systematic family therapy, cognitive-behavioral family therapy, and multiple family therapy are considered to be more effective in the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquency. These clinical interventions may prevent the reoccurrence of juvenile delinquency by developing the parent-child affection, and by enabling parents and children to acquire fundamental life skills. In this context, it is thought that it will be beneficial to develop clinically oriented services in forensic and social service institutions where adolescents with repetitive delinquency are kept and to increase the clinical skills of the social workers employed in such institutions.

Another notable finding of the research is that hostility/aggression, emotional instability, dependence, and negative worldview have remarkable effects on adolescents' delinquent behaviors. One way of preventing the risk of being pushed into crime is to foster healthy personality development. Therefore, anger management programs prepared with cognitive-behavioral techniques can help adolescents with hostile and aggressive behaviors and negative worldviews to gain emotional and cognitive awareness and improve their anger control skills. In order for adolescents with emotional instabilities and dependent personality to gain and develop their ability to recognize and express their feelings and desires, to control their excessive emotions, to say "no" in undesirable situations, and to maintain and end the discussions, it is recommended to prepare assertiveness training programs for such adolescents and to provide relevant services in coordination with social service institutions, the Ministry of National Education, and the Ministry of Health, especially social services.

Overall, while parental rejection, restrictive maternal control, and poor personality traits have effects increasing juvenile delinquency, parental acceptance, and healthy parental control and personality traits have protective effects. Therefore, micro, mezzo, and macro levels of social work interventions are needed

to strengthen the parent-child relationship and to promote healthy personality development of adolescents for preventive and therapeutic interventions for juvenile delinquency.

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