

An Empirical Study on Crime Control through Emphasising Psychoanalytical Theory

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Abstract: *Criminology is the study of crime and criminal conduct based on sociological and non-legal factors such as psychology, economics, statistics, anthropology, etc. The theoretical lens in the study of criminology has been primarily led by concepts from sociology, psychology, and biology, and the behaviour to be described is often behaviour that violates our society's established rules (i.e., crime and delinquency). Sigmund Freud was the founder of psychoanalysis. People could be cured, according to Freud, by acquiring "insight" into their unconscious, conscious thought and motivations. The objectives of the study are To know the opinion of people on the correlation of psychoanalytic theory and crime, to ascertain the knowledge of people on causes of crime and to find the general awareness of the preventive measures of crime. This paper followed an empirical method of research. The data is collected through a questionnaire with a set of questions and the sample size is 205. This study used a Convenience sampling to collect the data. The samples were collected from the general public in the area of Poonamallee bus stand. The independent variables are Age, Gender, Educational Qualifications, Occupation, Monthly income and Marital status. The dependent variables are whether a child learns everything in his childhood, level of agreeability on the effect of subconsciousness in crime commission and the reason behind the correlation of psychoanalytic theory and crime. And the final result shows how Sigmund Freud's theory of psychoanalysis has influenced a lot in the field of medical and mental health care, it also influences criminology. If the theory is well applied in the field of criminal justice through making people aware of such behaviour, we can create a good and well protected society.*

Keywords: Crime, psychology, psychoanalytic theory, childhood, criminal behaviour

I. INTRODUCTION

Criminology is the study of crime and criminal conduct based on sociological and non-legal factors such as psychology, economics, statistics, anthropology, etc. Criminologists look at crime as an illegal behaviour that is against society and has been punished through the legal system. And a crime is an act or omission, that is banned by law, and which, if done, results in prosecution by and in the name of the state rather than an individual person, and, following conviction, punishment delivered by state agents rather than compensation. Historically, theory has driven the scientific investigation of the origins of delinquency and crime. Thus according to popular belief, a good theory provides a basic lens through which it can be interpreted and comprehended the manifestation of a behaviour. The theoretical lens in the study of criminology has been primarily led by concepts from sociology, psychology, and biology, and the behaviour to be described is often behaviour that violates our society's established rules (i.e., crime and delinquency). Sigmund Freud was the founder of psychoanalysis. People could be cured, according to Freud, by acquiring "insight" into their unconscious, conscious thought and motivations. The goal of psychoanalytic therapy is to make the unconscious conscious by releasing repressed emotions and experiences. According to psychoanalytic theory, there is a link between the formation of personality in childhood and future criminal behaviour. Psychoanalytic criminology is a branch of criminology that draws on Freudian psychoanalysis to investigate crime and criminal behaviour. This school of thinking looks for motive in crime by looking at personality and the psyche (especially the unconscious). The fear of crime and



the act of punishment are two more topics of interest. One of the most frequently discussed questions in criminal law is why people commit crimes and how this ideology develops in their minds. Many prominent psychologists, such as Sigmund Freud (as mentioned earlier) and others, have contributed their research on this topic, yet many problems remain unresolved. In order to investigate the psychology of crime, five variables must be considered. Among these factors, there are three theories and two traits. Psychodynamic theory, behaviour theory, cognitive theory, personality, and IQ are all factors that influence crime psychology. There is still a lot of psychology study that needs to be done. France is known as one of the countries where psychoanalysis still holds an important position in various fields, and specially in psychiatry. The connection between psychology and criminality has yet to be fully understood. The three theories listed above, as well as elements such as personality and IQ, all have a part in defining the psychological side of criminal behaviour. It is the role of the state to ensure a suitable living environment for individuals. Personal circumstances and experiences have a larger part in shaping a criminal's worldview. What we need to think about is how to offer a safe and healthy environment for every person from the moment they are born, and if an event occurs that may traumatise them, proper treatment must be available so that their mental development is not delayed.

OBJECTIVES:

- To know the opinion of people on the correlation of psychoanalytic theory and crime.
- To ascertain the knowledge of people on causes of crime.
- To find the general awareness of the preventive measures of crime.

HYPOTHESIS:

- **H₀:** There is no significant relation between psychoanalytic theory and crime control.
- **H_a:** There is a significant relation between psychoanalytic theory and crime control.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(Falk 1966). The Psychoanalytic Theories of Crime Causation. Sociologists have tried to find the reasons for an individual's delinquent behaviour and they trace it to certain societal circumstances and factors such as fighting family members; failures in school or career; specific place of residence; subscribing to a particular association of people; getting labelled as criminal or delinquent by the society; excessive control or no control etc. **(Fitzpatrick 1976)** A Critical Survey of Salient Trends in Literature, (1976). Psychoanalytic studies of criminal motivation generally have followed the salient trends within the historical development of psychoanalytic theory. The first trend, initiated by Sigmund Freud in an essay entitled "Criminals from a Sense of Guilt" (1916), highlighted the motivational priority of unconscious psychosexual conflict. Social and economic factors were minimized. Psychoanalytic ego psychologists subsequently have questioned the explanatory adequacy of the libido theory and have modified the theoretical orientation of psychoanalysis. **(Stein 2018)** This collates and clarifies psychoanalytic theories on affect, and how they relate to the clinical process. The author outlines and analyses the most important theories on affect, and examines empirical work presented over the past 100 years, exposing the rigidity of some existing notions. **(Moore 2011)** Psychological Theories of Crime and Delinquency. Several psychological theories have been used to understand crime and delinquency. This literature review categorizes these perspectives into five areas, provides a brief overview of each, and analyzes and synthesizes the relevant elements within each area. The major perspectives reviewed are learning theories, intelligence theories, personality theories, theories of psychopathy, and cognitive and social development theories. **(Rao 2007)** Psychiatrist and the science of criminology: Sociological, psychological and psychiatric analysis of the dark side. Psychological or psychiatric criminology has to look beyond the individuals who have reached the final stage of the legal process to understand the 'criminal mind'. There is a filtering as 'suspect', 'arrested', 'charged', 'convicted' to the ultimate label of convict, inmate prisoner or criminal shows funneling effect. That means only fewer and fewer individuals reach the subsequent step in the criminal justice process, which is called 'the great pyramid of legal order' or 'legal iceberg'. **(Burnham 1982)** the foregoing histories of the reception of psychoanalysis in Germany, the Netherlands, and Spain offer illuminating comparisons not only with each other but



with the well-known histories of psychoanalysis in Austria, the United States, and, known to a lesser extent, England. Both parallels and divergences appear, suggesting cultural variation as well as some underlying commonalities in all of Western culture. **(Hatton 2017)**, This article explores two behavioural identifiers—criminal *modus operandi* and psychoanalysis. To illustrate the argument that they can serve an important role in establishing identity, it examines the case of John Hatton, a teenaged London thief who was transported to America in 1726. Using a trial transcript and other evidence, the paper argues that criminal *modus operandi* and psychoanalysis can, where adequate evidence survives, be used to adduce genealogical identity, thus enabling one to combine evidence recorded at different times and across two continents. **(Cordero, Vanegas, and Hermida 2015)**, a psychoanalytical view of criminology is always important in the sense that it helps people understand that no matter the crime, there is always something hidden behind it, that urges us as human beings not to generalise conducts in individuals, but to try and understand their motivations; not to dehumanise the offender considering him a monstrous being, but to investigate deeper what is going in his psyche, because, after all in this life, every one of us are carrying a heavy load over our shoulders. **(Dixon 1986)**, in all the psychological writings of Sigmund Freud, there is only one which is entirely concerned with the criminal. This work is a two page chapter in an article called "Some Character-Types met with in Psycho-Analytic Work, " in which Freud sets forth his theory that many criminals are motivated by a sense of guilt. The rest of Freud's references to criminals are scattered amongst a prolific number of articles and books, written during a career spanning over forty years. The article which follows attempts to tie together these scattered references and do what, in fact, Freud never did—deliver a complete and systematic study on the criminal mind. **(Karpman 1956)**, criminal psychodynamics has for its purpose the study of the genesis, development, and motivation of that aspect of human behavior that conflicts with accepted social norms and standards. The Archives of Criminal Psychodynamics will encourage research into the psychodynamics of existing knowledge on the subject, promotion of superior legal and humane understanding of the relations between the criminal and society, and the betterment of the condition of the criminal as an individual. **(Ruberg 2021)**, this article demonstrates how psychoanalytic thought, especially ideas by Adler, Reik, Deutsch, and Alexander and Staub, informed forensic psychiatry in the Netherlands from the late 1920s. A psychoanalytic vocabulary can also be found in the reports written by forensic psychiatrists and psychologists in court cases in the 1950s. The new psychoanalytic emphasis on unconscious motives implied a stronger focus on the personality of the suspect. This article argues that psychoanalysis accelerated this development in the mid-twentieth century, contributing to the role of the psy-sciences in normalization processes. **(Goldsmith and Halsey 2017)**. This article examines the link between unresolved childhood trauma and loss issues and the impact on serious offending into and beyond early adulthood. Drawing on in-depth interview data with second- and third-generation prisoners. Close attention is given to how custodial environments address prisoners' trauma and loss issues, and, more pointedly, to how the failure to bring such issues safely to the fore has real implications for prisoner reintegration and public safety. **(Schechter et al. 2019)**, psychodynamic psychotherapy has an important role in suicide prevention. The psychoanalytic study of suicide has taught us a great deal about the human experience and the process of suicidality. There is also much to be learned from other fields of study and from empirical research that can be integrated into psychoanalytic therapies. Central to the psychoanalytic approach to suicide has been understanding the patient's internal subjective experience of unbearable emotional or psychic pain and the urgent need for relief. Emotional pain can include intense affects such as shame, humiliation, self-hate, and rage. **(Ronningstam, Weinberg, and Maltzberger 2009)**, Psychoanalytic theories and studies have influenced the explorations of suicide over the past hundred years. Freud's first observations of self-objectification in melancholic depression were followed by contributions from object relation theorists and self-psychologists, highlighting foremost the role of narcissistic rage and structural vulnerability. Empirical studies of several assumptions and constructs related to emotions, defences, and structural deficits and vulnerabilities verify their association to or explanation of chronic and acute suicidality. **(“School-Based Suicide Prevention Programming” 2010)**. Reducing suicide rates is a key mental health social policy objective worldwide, and has been so for the past decade. The prioritisation of suicide prevention is justified on moral, clinical and ethical grounds (Reulbach and Bleich, 2008); the psychological impact of suicide is massive, and yet also difficult to quantify, since the self-destruction of a life—itself a grievous loss—is accompanied by manifest and significant impact on the lives of others connected with the suicidal person. **(Dalzell 1997)**, Childhood sexual abuse is a problem that leads to serious psychological



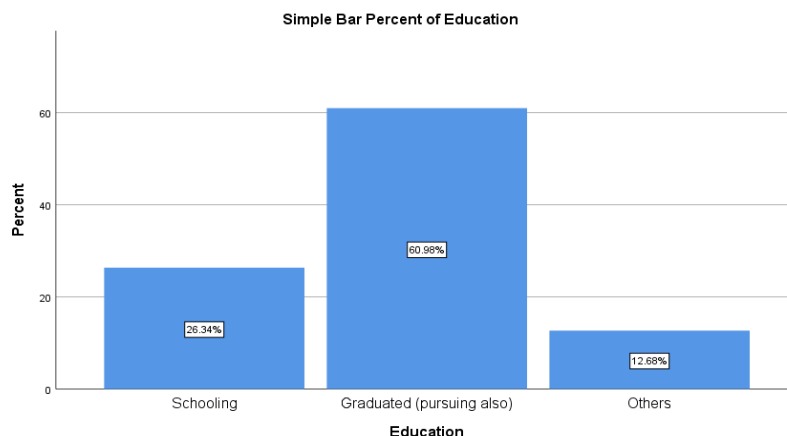
disturbances evidenced through the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This article discusses the treatment of sexual abuse survivors within a psychoanalytic framework. Different theoretical perspectives including classical Freudian, ego-psychological, object-relational and self-psychological are presented. Several relational treatment models, including feminist psychodynamic approaches, are offered. Themes include the importance of developing a strong therapeutic alliance and analyzing transference responses. (Albin 1977). Theory and research about rape provides a striking example of the impact of male-dominated psychology on our view of women. In few other contexts have women been as maligned, as degraded, and yet as ignored as in discussions of rape by mental health professionals. Description of the historical antecedents of this situation can lead to development of the theoretical framework that analyses of rape currently lack. (Zhang 2020). Psychoanalysis theory is Sigmund Freud's theory of personality that attributes thoughts and actions to unconscious motives and conflicts. The purpose of this paper is to examine the influence of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory on other personality psychologists. The conclusion of this paper is that the influence of Sigmund Freud towards other personality psychologists shed light on the overall development of Personality Psychology as a unique subject. (Horton 1916). Discusses whether dream interpretations represent the state of the dreamer's mind or are the mere fancy of the interpreter. Illustrates criticisms of the psychoanalytic techniques by interpreting a dream, first by Freud's 'reductive method' and then by Jung's 'constructive method'. Proposes the 'reconstitutive method' of dream interpretation, as 'reconstituting' the dream-thought by tracing the waves of nervous excitation from its origin in the primary stimulus-ideas through a specific apperception-mass into a consequently derived system of secondary images, which form the manifest dream content. (Smith 2006). Recent developments in criminology have included a revival of interest in offenders' biographies and inner emotional experiences, and a stress on the importance of self-understanding for an understanding of crime. The article discusses the most striking of these efforts, by Clare Winnicott and William Jordan, and explores their relevance to current thinking and research on probation, in which the importance of the relationship between offender and supervising officer is once again receiving close attention.

III. METHODOLOGY

This paper followed an empirical method of research. The data is collected through a questionnaire with a set of questions and the sample size is 205. This study used a Convenience sampling to collect the data. The samples were collected from the general public in the area of Poonamallee bus stand. The independent variables are Age, Gender, Educational Qualifications, Occupation, Monthly income and Marital status. The dependent variables are whether a child learns everything in his childhood, level of agreeability on the effect of subconsciousness in crime commission and the reason behind the correlation of psychoanalytic theory and crime.

IV. ANALYSIS

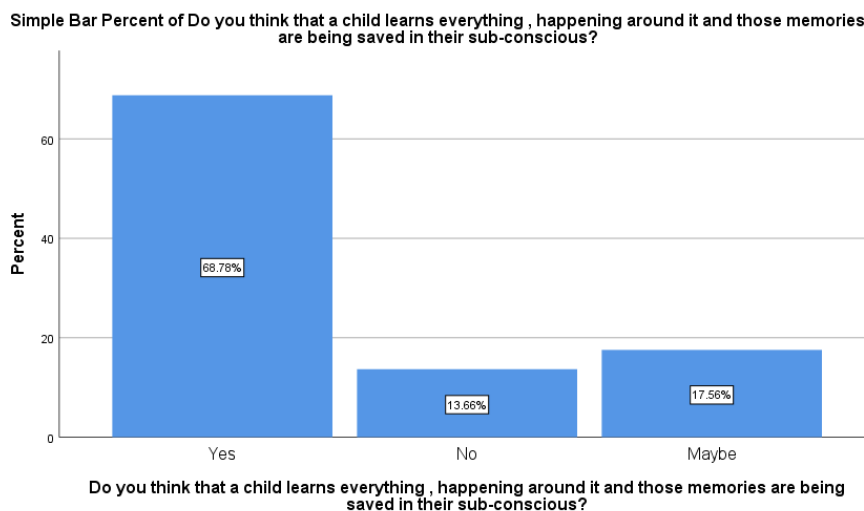
Figure 1:



Legend: Figure 1 is a simple graph showing the education level of the respondents.

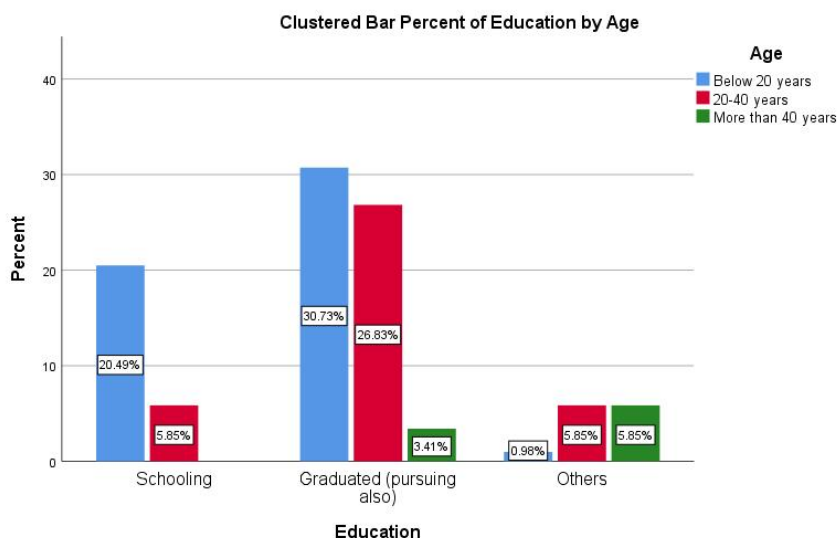


Figure 2:



Legend: Figure 2 is a simple graph showing the response for the question: do you think that a child learns everything, happening around it and those memories are being saved in their subconscious.

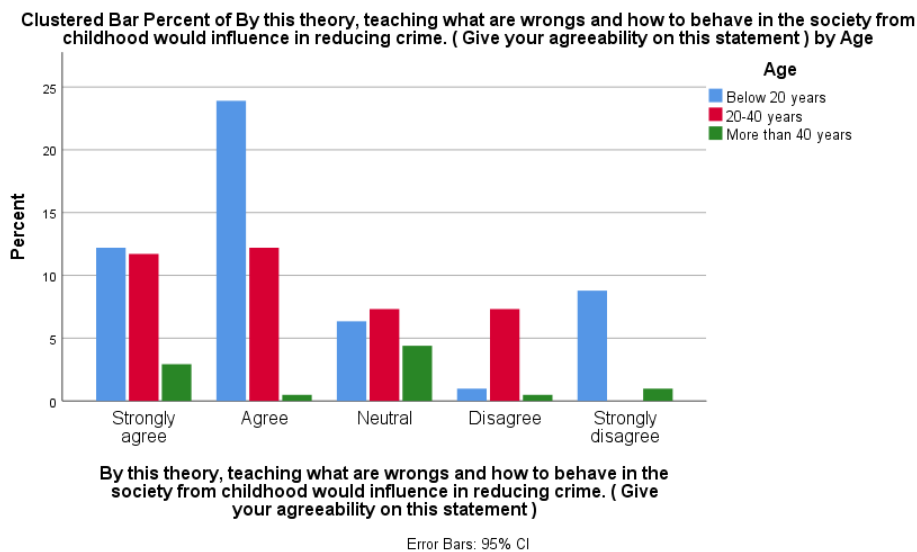
Figure 3:



Legend: Figure 3 shows a complex graph for the demographic values of education compared with the different set of age groups.

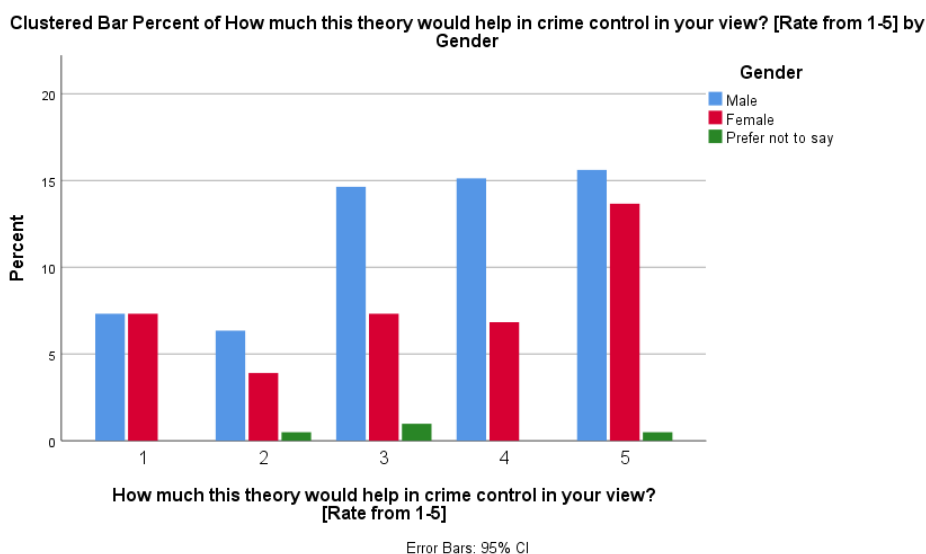


Figure 4:



Legend: Figure 4 is a complex graph showing the agreeability of this theory helps in reducing crime by teaching what is right and wrong with respect to the age group of the respondents.

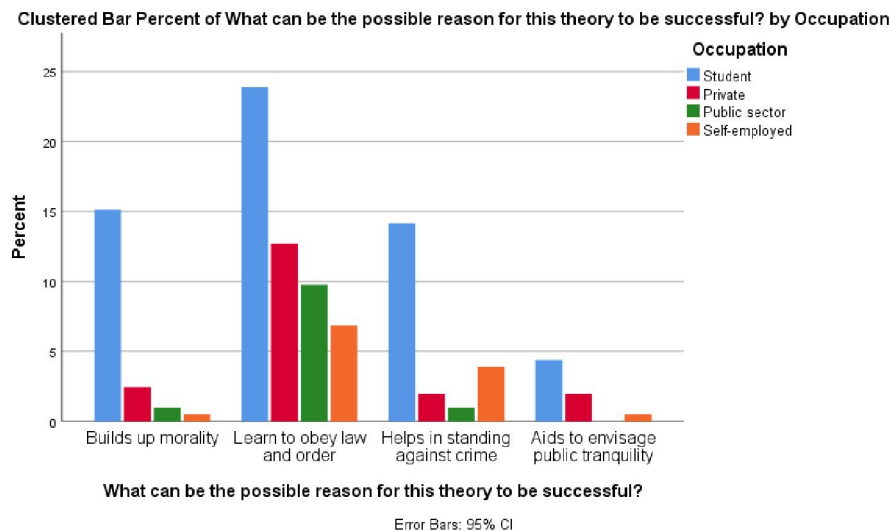
Figure 5:



Legend: Figure 5 is a complex graph showing the response on rating upon the theory helps in crime control with respect to the different gender of the respondents.

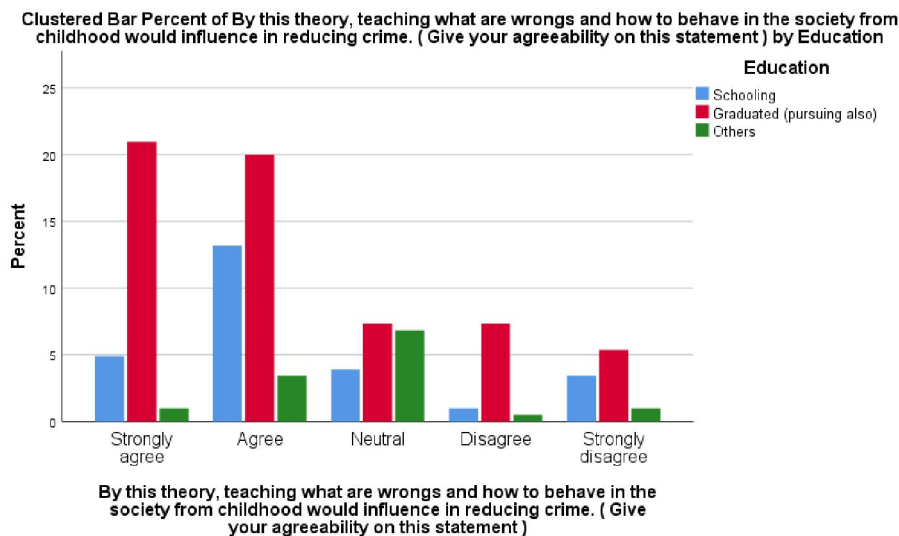


Figure 6:



Legend: Figure 6 is a complex graph showing the response to multiple choice question on the reason for this theory to be successful with respect to the different gender of the respondents.

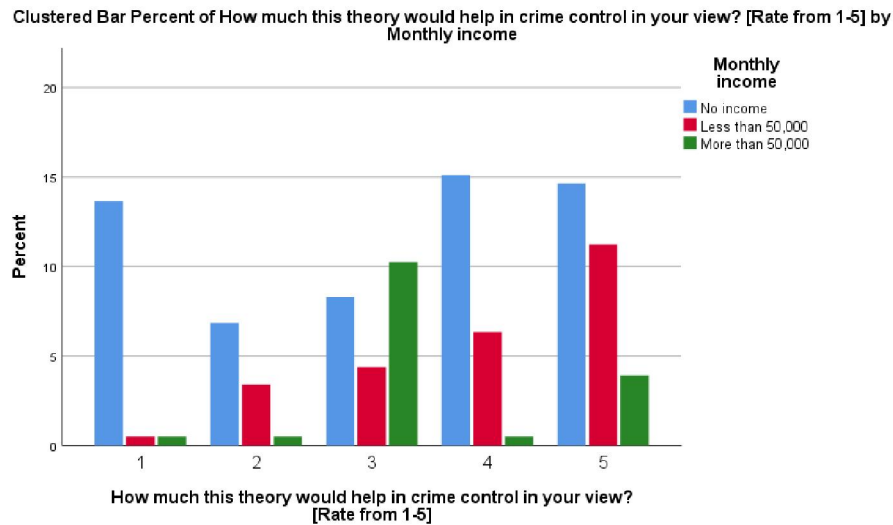
Figure 7:



Legend: Figure 7 is a complex graph showing the agreeability of respondents on this theory helps in reducing crime by teaching what is right and wrong with respect to different educational qualifications of the respondents.

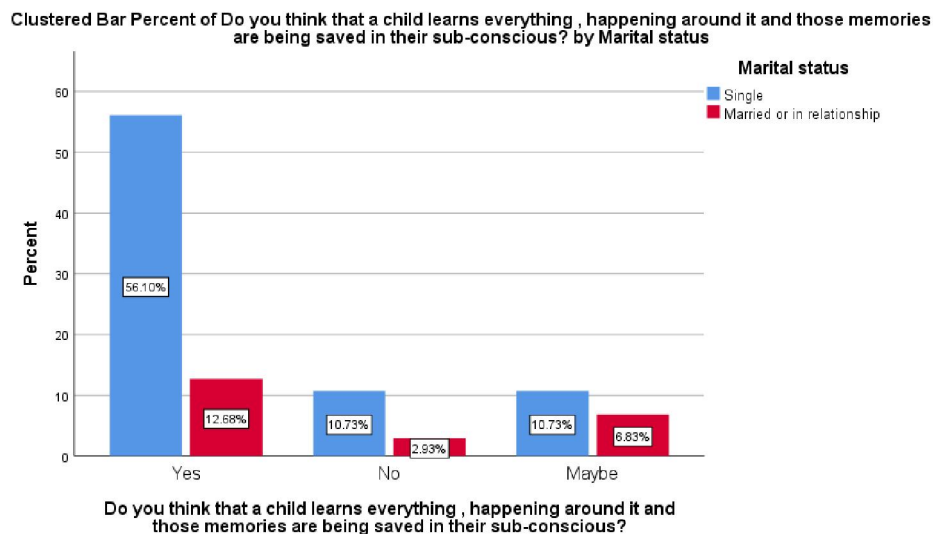


Figure 8:



Legend: Figure 8 is a complex graph showing the response on rating upon the theory helps in crime control with respect to the respondents of the different incomes.

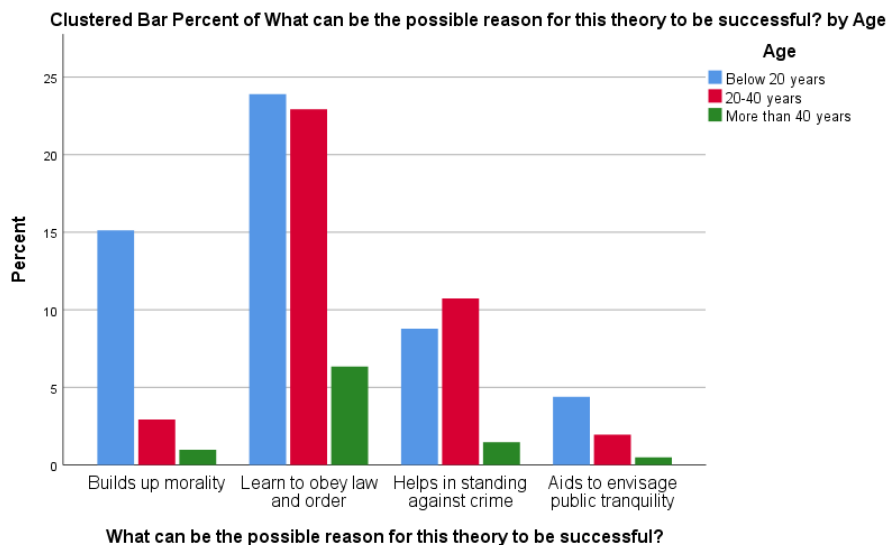
Figure 9:



Legend: Figure 9 is a complex graph showing the response for the question: “do you think that a child learns everything, happening around it and those memories are being saved in their subconscious” comparing on the basis of marital status.



Figure 10:



Legend: Figure 10 is a complex graph showing the response to multiple choice question on the reason for this theory to be successful with respect to the different age groups of the respondents.

V. RESULTS

(Figure 1) The graph shows the demographic value of education which shows 60.98% of respondents are graduating and graduated whereas 26.34% of them are going to school or completed their schooling. (Figure 2) As per the graph 68.78% of respondents have responded yes and 13.66% of respondents have opted No also 17.56% of respondents have chosen the option maybe. (Figure 3) The complex graph of demographic value age and education shows respondents aged below 20 years and 20-40 years are either having graduated or graduating at present. More 40 years old respondents have graduated and also chosen others. (Figure 4) The respondents below the age of 20 years and between 20-40 years are comparatively agreeing more that teaching what is wrong and how to behave in the society from childhood would influence in reducing crime. Respondents of more than 40 years are staying neutral to the agreeability question. (Figure 5) To this rating question males have responded 3, 4 and 5 by supporting that this theory would help in crime control. Even females support this statement but comparatively less than males. (Figure 6) The respondents irrespective of their occupations opted to learn to obey law and order as the main reason for this theory to be successful. Especially students have shattered their response to other options also but other employed people have responded the option very high. (Figure 7) The graph shows that graduated and pursuing graduation respondents have agreed and strongly agreed (almost 40% of respondents) and school students have agreed to the statement whereas most of those with others in education have been neutral. (Figure 8) People with no income have responded with both 1 and 5 to this theory to be helpful in crime control, the other respondents with less than 50,000 have supported it relatively. The respondents with more than 50,000 have rated 3 which means they are neutral to it. (Figure 9) There is no significant relation between marital status and the question that every child learns everything happening around it and those memories are being saved in their subconscious as both single and married respondents have answered yes. (Figure 10) Almost 50% of respondents have answered that this theory will help in teaching the children to obey law and order, respondents below 20 years marked that builds up morality and Respondents of 20-40 years have opted to help in standing against the crime.

VI. DISCUSSION

(Figure 1) From the graph it is said that the respondents of this research are mostly educated either in school or have graduated. It is very common that all go to schools and colleges. In fact it has become compulsory to be educated, thus



the responses collected from the general public include educated people. **(Figure 2)** This graph depicts that more than half of the respondents have responded yes which shows the effectiveness of this theory. It is so true that every child learns from the surroundings that have been influenced in life later on. If a child is taught of the good and wrong then he or she would definitely become a great person in future. **(Figure 3)** Again it's a demographic graph for education and age, to check the level of education in the society with respect to age and of its impact in this research. People with more than 40 years have responded more in others which may also include non formal education. **(Figure 4)** As per the result from the graph, the younger generation that is from below 20 years and 20-30 years old have agreed that teaching what is wrong and how to behave in the society from childhood would influence in reducing crime. This is because that they might have got some basic understandings like learning from childhood influence personality. But respondents of more than 40 years have stayed neutral as they are so conventional and not believing in such theories. **(Figure 5)** Males have rated higher than females which might be because males could have probably thought in such a way themselves as a person so vulnerable to commit a crime. As in consideration this theory has great influence in crime control is known by them. Here women too know it, but as men responded comparatively high it is hereby said like that. **(Figure 6)** From the graph we can understand that this theory will be successful in teaching children to learn to obey laws and orders because laws are the rules and regulations that are being incorporated in the country which is based on the virtue of goodness, feature of morality and towards welfare of the society. Here there is no significant relationship between occupation and the question. **(Figure 7)** This graph is very clear that educated people have agreed to that statement related to this theory because the education they got has helped them in understanding the practicality compared to the others with non formal education. **(Figure 8)** To infer this graph first consider the ratings of 5 which have been given by people of no income and the people with less than 50,000 of income. Which shows respondents of the middle class believe in this theory's influence upon children as they know much more because of being lived in a closed and joint family than higher class people in the society. **(Figure 9)** Respondents of both single and married have responded with yes which shows there is no significant relation between marital status and the question. Because it is so correct that every child born in this world is as innocent as a flower. Every one would be driven out of their circumstances and surroundings. **(Figure 10)** As the graph shows, this theory will be successful in teaching children to learn to obey laws and orders in the name of discipline; because laws are the rules and regulations that are being incorporated in the country which is actually a final result of the other three options. Thus undoubtedly the theory has some influence over criminology and crime prevention.

VII. LIMITATIONS

One of the major limitations is the use of convenience sampling methods that give a biased output which cannot be avoided. And there was a very short span of time to conduct and complete the research. Another limitation is we can't be able to assume the thoughts of the entire population in a country, state or city with limited sample size.

VII. CONCLUSION

From overall analysis of the graph generated from the responses collected from the people clearly gives some inference on the hypothesis. As all according the discussions made it could be derived hereby, how Sigmund Freud's theory of psychoanalysis have influenced a lot in the field of medical and mental health care it also influence upon criminology. If the theory is well applied in the field of criminal justice through making people aware of such behaviour, we can create a good and well protected society. Every great thing starts from a scratch, likewise building a personality from childhood will help towards crime prevention and establishing a protected environment. Suggestion from the paper is that we should enable with more ways in teaching parents or caretakers about this phenomenon and organise rallies, camps or any other possible measures to increase awareness.



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