

**PERSONALITY TRAITS, CRIMINAL SENTIMENTS, MORAL  
DISENGAGEMENT AND DEVIANT BEHAVIOR IN YOUNG ADULTS**

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**By**

**SHAFQAT ALI**

**F2021238011**

**SUPERVISOR**

**DR SADIA HUDA**

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**Department of Applied Psychology**

**School of Professional Psychology**

**University of Management and Technology, Lahore, 2023**

**Personality Traits, Criminal Sentiments, Moral Disengagement and Deviant  
Behavior in Young Adults**

**Shafqat Ali**

**F2021238011**

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A Thesis submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the degree of  
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**Supervised by: Dr Sadia Huda**



**DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY**

**SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, LAHORE**

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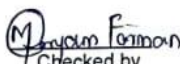
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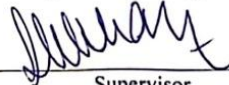
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Supervisor

**Dr Sadia Huda**

Department of Applied Psychology,  
UMT



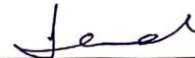
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Dr. Haziq Mehmood

Chairperson, Department of Applied Psychology (SPP), UMT



Prof. Dr. Sadia Saleem

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Deponent

Shafqat Ali

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## ABSTRACT

Deviant behavior has increasingly become a prevalent issue in past years among young adults. The current study was designed to examine and explore the relationship between personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior in young adults. The sample consisted of 242 young adults. The sample age range was 18-35 years. Data was collected from different areas of Lahore. Questionnaire on the Big Five Inventory (Rammstedt & John, 2005), Criminal Sentiments Scale (Andrews & Wormith, 1984), Moral Disengagement Scales (Bandura, 2002), and Deviant Behavior Scale (Mushtaq & Kauser, 2012) were used. Descriptive and inferential analysis along with psychometric properties, correlation, regression, mediation, moderation, t-test, and ANOVA were used for analysis. Findings of the study indicated there was a significant relationship in personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior. Extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, tolerance for law violation, displacement of responsibility, and dehumanization were the best predictors of deviant behavior in young adults. Furthermore, group differences were also indicated significant gender, education based differences. Moreover, the results further revealed that criminal sentiment was a significant moderator between personality traits and deviant behavior. In addition to that results also shown that moral disengagement was a significant mediator between personality traits and deviant behavior and showed partial mediation while the openness personality trait showed full mediation. Addressing these factors that contribute to deviant behavior will be helpful for the development of effective intervention programs.

**Keyword** Personality Traits Criminal Sentiments Moral Disengagement Deviant behavior young adults

## **DEDICATION**

To my loving family, this dedication is a token of my deepest appreciation and love for your unwavering support throughout the duration of this research endeavor. You have been my pillar of strength, providing encouragement, understanding, and a shoulder to lean on during both the highs and lows of this process. To my parents, your unconditional love and belief in me have fueled my determination to pursue this research. Your sacrifices and constant encouragement have been the driving force behind my pursuit of knowledge. I am forever grateful for your unwavering support and guidance.

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**Shafqat Ali**

*MPhil Psychology*

Department of Applied Psychology

University of Management and Technology, Lahore

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**LIST OF SYMBOLS**

$M$	Arithmetic Mean
$SD$	Standard Deviation
$F$	Frequency
$P$	Significance
%	Percentage
$LL$	Lower Limit
$UL$	Upper Limit
$N$	Sample size
$CI$	Confidence Interval
$\alpha$	Reliability Co-efficient
$\beta$	Standardized regression Co-efficient
$t$	Value of difference
$r^2$	Co-efficient of determination/ explained variance
$\Delta r^2$	Change of Co-efficient of determination
$F$	Variance of group mean/mean of the within group variance
$df$	Degree of freedom
$d$	Cohen's measure of sample effect size
$k$	No. of items
$n$	Sub-samples

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## **Chapter I**

### **Introduction**

In recent years, the prevalence of deviant behavior among young adults in Pakistan has emerged as a growing concern for both researchers and policymakers. Understanding the factors that contribute to this behavior is crucial for the development and implementation of effective preventive measures. Personality traits play an important role in shaping an individual's behavior and choices. The current study introduces two important factors that may interact with personality traits to determine deviant behavior in young adults: criminal sentiments and moral disengagement. Criminal sentiments are defined as attitudes, beliefs, and values that justify or support engaging in criminal activities. These sentiments can influence an individual's perception and acceptance of deviant behavior as normative or acceptable. To understand the role of criminal sentiments and other determinants that influence deviant behavior, it is important to recognize the role of various types of personality. Personality traits are an important predictor of individual outcomes and behavior (Forrester et al., 2016).

#### **Personality traits**

Personality traits are the comprehensible form of effect, thought, and needs as they lead to action (Revelle, 2013). The APA describes personality as individual differences in distinguishing styles of thinking, acting, and feeling. It's a significant part of who you are. Personality displays an encouraging relationship with life gratification (Boyce, Wood, & Powdthavee, 2013). With personality having such a huge influence on our lives, it is significant to have a consistent method to theorize and extent.

## **The Big Five structure**

After the development of personality traits total of five factors or traits are considered as main traits. These traits were extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and openness to experience. The order is established according to the strong points of the factors (Norman, 1963). These traits were characterized as the five elementary traits that everybody has. People have different personalities when compared to other people. Some of them are introverts whereas others showed agreeableness personality traits accordingly (Hrebickova & Urbanek, 2001).

## **Personality Trait Dimensions and Measures**

Personality traits are naturally observed to be fairly constant and reliable shapes of behavior, feelings, habits, and attitudes in people (McCrae & Costa, 2003). Both biologically built and social environmental structures explain these characters. Indication of a genetic effect is grounded on behavioral genetics of identical studies show that five personality traits are evaluated to have a heritability of 40-60% (e.g., Power & Pluess, 2015). Social aspects of how people have been raised, their early personal experiences, and social inspirations also play vital roles in forming these traits (e.g., Lazarus, 1961).

## **Extraversion**

Extraversion is a personality trait categorized by emotionality, friendliness, chattiness, confidence, and expanses of emotional sadness. Individuals who are high in extraversion are outgoing and inclined to expand energy in communal circumstances. Being around others helps them feel thrilled and enthusiastic. People who are low in these personality traits or introverted are inclined to be more reserved. They have less vigor to spend in social situations and societal actions can feel tough. Introverts prefer isolation and quiet in command to boost.

People draw their vigor in how they interrelate with others. Extroverts pull vigor from or boost by relating with others, introverts become exhausted from cooperating with others and replace their vigor with isolation. Extraversion is categorized by the extent of activities, urgency from exterior circumstances, and energy formation from exterior incomes (Laney MO, 2002). The factor is noticeable by definite assignation with the exterior world.

Extraverts are inclined to be excited, action-oriented persons. They hold higher cluster perceptibility and like to converse and emphasize themselves. They may seem more leading in societal situations, in contrast to introverted people in this situation (Friedman & Schustack, 2016).

Introverts have inferior social assignation and energy levels than extroverts. They are inclined to look silent, deliberate, and less complicated in the communal world. Introverts want less inspiration and extra time for them than extroverts. This is not similar to antisocial behavior, they have to act under different social conditions (Rothmann & Coetzer, 2003). On the other hand suitability, confidence, cheerfulness, outgoing nature, chattiness, capability to be a coherent, inclination for love, friendliness, and social assurance. These traits are related to extroversion. They are happy with others, are outgoing, and are inclined to act rather than observe (Lebowitz, 2016).

### **Agreeableness**

This personality trait contains attributes such as faith, unselfishness, sympathy, love, and other prosocial activities. Individuals who are higher in agreeableness are inclined to be more helpful while those low in this personality trait are inclined to be more modest and occasionally even devious. This aspect determine how fit individual are with others. Agreeableness apprehension is someone's direction to others. It is a concept that breaks down how a person

usually interrelates with others. The agreeableness imitates a person's alterations in universal concern for societal agreement. They are normally thoughtful, substantial, believing honest, cooperative, and ready to negotiate their benefits with others. Agreeable persons also have a bright sight of human nature. Occasionally their uncertainty about others' reasons causes them to be doubtful, unfavorable, and unhelpful (Bartneck., et al 2007).

Humanity, faith, humility, tolerance, self-control, tact, respect, kindness, loyalty, selflessness, effectiveness, sympathy, friendliness, cheeriness, and attention are the aspects of agreeableness in individuals. People who were higher in agreeableness were inclined to be admired, valued, and complex to the desires of others. They probably have insufficient opponents and are loving to friends and respected ones, as sympathetic to the difficulties of outsiders (Lebowitz, 2016).

Agreeableness and conscientiousness are two traits that have been linked in psychological research. Agreeableness is a personality trait that includes being pleasant, cooperative, and friendly, whereas conscientiousness is a trait characterized by being organized, responsible, and hardworking. Individuals who are higher in agreeableness are inclined to also be high in conscientiousness, suggesting that these two traits may be related. Individuals who are both agreeable and conscientious tend to be more successful in the workplace and relationships. Therefore, it is important to take into consideration both agreeableness and conscientiousness when assessing an individual's personality and potential.

### **Conscientiousness**

Conscientiousness included control over emotions, desires, thoughts, and goal-directed activities. People with higher conscientiousness are inclined to be planned and attentive to facts. They plan fast, think about how their behavior marks others, and are aware of limits. One who

scores low is less organized and less systematized. They may delay getting things completed, occasionally missing deadlines entirely. Conscientiousness is a feature that could be defined as the propensity to control desires and performance in publicly suitable ways, actions that help goal-directed actions (John & Srivastava, 1999).

Conscientiousness is an inclination to present self-discipline, action loyally, and struggle for success in contradiction of actions or external hopes. It is connected to how individuals' control and through desires. Higher conscientiousness is supposed to be persevering and intensive. Low conscientiousness is linked with elasticity and impulsiveness, but could also seem to messiness and inconsistency (Toegel G & Barsoux JL, 2012).

Higher conscientiousness shows favor for self-silencing than natural actions. The average level of conscientiousness increases in young adults and then drops in older adults (Costa PT & McCrae RR, 1992). Traits in conscientiousness include Perseverance, determination, carefulness, constancy, predictability, control, consistency, creativity, hard work, and determination. People with high conscientiousness are likely to be effective in colleges and professions and to persistently chase their goals line with willpower and foresight (Lebowitz, 2016).

Conscientiousness and neuroticism are two distinct personality traits that can be linked in several ways. Conscientiousness, which is characterized by being organized, responsible, and goal-driven, is often seen as the opposite of neuroticism, which is characterized by being anxious, easily overwhelmed, and prone to worry. Neuroticism can lead to difficulty in making decisions and planning, which can be counterbalanced by conscientiousness. By understanding both traits and how they are linked, individuals can gain insight into their behavior and manage their emotions and goals.

## Neuroticism

Neuroticism is a personality trait categorized by moodiness, sadness, and sensitive instability. Neuroticism is not only an aspect of unkindness but one of self-confidence and being relaxed in one's skin.

Hans Eysenck's (1967), neuroticism is correlated with less acceptance of stress (Norris et al., 2007). Those people who score higher in neuroticism are expressively responsive and exposed to strain. They are additionally probable to understand normal states as hostile. They could observe slight obstructions as miserably problematic. Their undesirable emotional responses are inclined to continue for oddly lengthy stages of time, which means they are in an immoral mood. For example, neuroticism is linked to the negative process of work, to the inevitability that work delays private associations, and to high points of nervousness from the burdens at work (Fiske et al., 2009).

These difficulties in emotional regulation can reduce the capability of an individual who scores higher on neuroticism to deliberate and manage effectually with stress. Deficient gladness in one's life successes can be associated with higher neuroticism and a rise in one's probability of falling into sadness. People higher in neuroticism are inclined to practice more undesirable life actions, neuroticism also varies in reply to positive and bad life practices. People with higher neuroticism tend to have inferior emotional well-being (Jeronimus et al, 2013). These traits are associated with neuroticism: gracelessness, distrust, irritability, suspiciousness, instability, temper, distress, suspicion and self-criticism, deficiency of confidence, and self-doubt. Neuroticism is an essential area of personality that influences people to experience negative movements, including anxiety, rage, sadness, irritability, and hopelessness (Widiger & Oltmanns, 2017).

Neuroticism and openness to experience are two important personality traits that have been studied for many years. Neuroticism is associated with negative emotions such as anxiety, and worry, while openness to experience is characterized by curiosity, creativity, and a willingness to try new things. Research suggests that there may be a link between these two traits, as people who are higher in neuroticism tend to be lower in openness to experience, and vice versa. This suggests that neuroticism can act as a barrier to openness to experience, but also that people may be able to use their openness to experience to manage their neuroticism and reduce negative emotions.

### **Openness to Experience**

Openness highlights imagination and perception the greatest out of all five personality traits. People who are higher in openness are inclined to have a wide range of comforts. They are interested in the world, are enthusiastic to pick up new things, and adore new experiences. People who are higher in openness to experience are inclined to be more daring and inventive. Low people are often much old-style and may fight with mental thinking. Openness to experiences has been defined as a complication and complication of a person's psychological experiences (John & Srivastava, 1999).

Openness to experience apprehensions common inclination to effort to new belongings, aptitude to be susceptible, and their competence to consider outside the box. It is universal gratitude for art, sentiment, journey, rare ideas, fancy, snooping, and variation of practice. They are more likely to grasp unusual opinions. High openness can be seen as volatility or deficiency of focus and is more likely to be involved in risky performance (Ambridge, 2014).

A person who is higher in openness to experience is probably somebody who has an affection for learning, is involved in a creative occupation, and likes consulting fresh individuals (Lebowitz, 2016).

### **Personality and Criminal Sentiments**

Personality traits are a set of characteristics that are used to describe how a person behaves. They are often determined by a person's upbringing, lifestyle, and life experiences. People with certain traits tend to act similarly, while people with other traits may act differently. Personality traits can be both positive and negative, and they can have a significant impact on a person's life. In contrast, Criminal sentiments are an extension of personality traits, as they refer to the beliefs and behaviors that individuals have towards criminal activity. Criminal sentiments can range from a strong feeling of guilt or remorse after committing a crime, to a feeling of invincibility and disregard for the law. Criminal sentiments are often shaped by a person's environment, and they can have a significant influence on whether or not an individual engages in criminal behavior. Wiebe (2004) records that the big five mechanisms of trait personality, agreeableness, and conscientiousness have been initiated to trigger criminal behavior. Heaven (1996) revealed neuroticism, agreeableness, and conscientiousness to be predictive of criminal behaviors.

### **Criminal Sentiments**

Highly violent criminals are people with violent and distorted thoughts, fibrous personalities, and high-risk behavior, their motive is the create terror and fear in others and they commit perocious crimes that cause severe disstructions (Andrew & Wormith, 1998).

Two criminogenic desires that have been proposed that reinforce violent behavior are sociomoral reasoning childishness (Goldstein, Glick, & Gibbs, 1998) and criminal thought in the procedure of pro-criminal thoughts (Simourd, 1996; Walters, 1990).

### **Criminal Sentiments and Criminal or Violent Behavior**

Criminal sentiments are definite as a group of attitudes and views on behalf of proximal individuals and personal sustenance for unlawful actions. The list of sentiments has originated to describe three constructs: attitudes toward the law, police, court, neutralizations, and identification with criminal others (Andrews & Wormith, 1984).

Criminal thoughts included adverse attitudes toward the police, law, and court that further a high will to explain immoral behavior, advanced documentation with illegal peers, and criminals approving higher pro-criminal sentiment than non-criminal (Simourd, 1996). Pro-criminal sentiments triggered a criminal previous and upcoming for mature males, clarifying forty percent of the change in 3-year re-offense (Andrews & Bonta, 1998), as a maximum factor for reoffending (Gendreau, Little, & Goggin, 1996) and maintenance of an unlawful life (Walters, 1990, 2002). Even with criminal sentiments' importance in the literature, and position as the maximum hazard factor for re-offense. Walters et al., (2002) claim therapy plans do not dedicate sufficient thoughtful courtesy to decrease of these sentiments.

Crime and criminal behavior are an ever-present phenomenon in society that continues to cause disruption and fear in our lives. It is an issue that is almost impossible to ignore, as it is a part of our daily lives, whether it be through news reports, television shows, or even personal experiences.

### **Neutralizations**

Five neutralisations were proposed:

- Denial of responsibility; an individual's activities were observed elsewhere under their control.
- Denial of harm; the performance was seen as innocent.
- Denial of the victim; there were no sufferers, where the victim justified it.
- Condemnation of the Condemners; behaviors of others who sentence the action were interrogated.
- Appeals to higher loyalties e.g., my household wanted the currency what else could I do; my peers were trusting me how could I let them down?

Akers (1985) described that supreme criminals were dedicated to law-abiding or criminal behavior. Societal morals would not be forbidden completely while significant in how to justify criminal actions providing prime in whether to be involved in lawbreaking or to compact with blame during. Neutralizations provide cognitive that the thoughtful hurting of others was not correct, but under firm situations certain actions were essential and justified.

### **Linking Endorsement of Criminal Sentiments to Socio-Moral Development**

Griffore and Samuels (1978) showed that the mainstream of young criminals confirmed mature-level socio-moral perception. If young adults' cognition can barrier in contradiction to violent behavior, it is somewhat destabilized. A person's thinking could have a powerful effect on how he thinks.

Bandura (1977) claimed the direction of maturity-level ratiocinators was to express honor and to be faithful, which can in some situations challenge faithfulness to prosocial standards. Bandura proposed that associated with young adult relationships, there is no purpose why this will not generalize to mature criminals. Undeveloped socio-moral cognition was related to illegal and intense behavior because the conclusion to support or disrupt social rules like beating would

only be supported where values maximized self-interest and minimized unfavorable properties. It looks spontaneous that such a worldview would be reliable with higher internalization of criminal thoughts, e.g. The police force is on the take, everyone breaks down the law, so, why shouldn't I? In distinction, the worldview provided by the established level is reinforced by the aptitude to realize suggestions for your activities.

As viewpoint-taking is an essential state for evolution to the mature level, Jennings et al. (1983) interpreted it as a reliable maintenance of societal rules. Criminal sentiments seem to be stable and extremely impervious to alteration (Simourd, 1996). If criminal thoughts are combined into a person's trust system, then socio-moral evolution may just quarter them.

### **Criminal Sentiments and Moral Disengagement**

Criminal sentiments and moral disengagement are concepts that have been studied extensively to understand the motivations and outcomes of criminal behavior. These concepts are closely intertwined and can be used to explain why people engage in criminal activities and why they may feel little or no remorse for their actions. Criminal sentiments often arise as a result of moral disengagement strategies utilized by individuals. By disengaging from their moral conscience, individuals can distance themselves from the consequences of their actions. This allows them to justify engaging in criminal behavior and rationalize their actions as acceptable.

### **Moral disengagement**

Bandura (1986; 1999) originated the idea of moral disengagement. It is a progression of inspiration that moral standards do not link to any in a specific state. The mechanisms of self-condemnation are deactivated in this way by ethically disengaged people. Bandura (2002) described that mechanisms of moral disengagement can assemble for ways to influence their doer that those are acting morally and are in contact with the morals and beliefs of their

leaders. Moral disengagement is used by leaders like political and divine heads to defend their supporters' contract in the actions of inhumanity. The connotation within moral thinking and presentation is helped by tactics, which go before moral actions and are fixed in common ethics and moral standards. People criticize and justify their acts linked to their self-formulated ethics and related circumstances, at that time they act in a method that gives them an insight into support and arrogance (Cartledge, Grieve, & Palasinski, 2015).

Morality is a learning path of distinguishing between morals and evils. It is essentially a guide or way of behavior essential code of right and incorrect in humans. Inside a culture, these morals are categorized by an assembly of standards executed upon the individuals through the threat of agreements and disadvantages. Rising from diverse sources such as values, family, and civilization these morals can be delicate or dangerous (MacDonald, 1963).

Moral disengagement from societal psychology for the procedure of conclusive the character that moral values do not put on to someone in a specific setting. This is completed by extrication ethical responses from cruel behavior and restricting the procedure of self-condemnation. Moral disengagement includes the procedure of mental reconstruing and reframing of damaging actions as being ethically suitable and deprived of altering the behavior. Moral disagreements are a comprehensive feature of the existing world. People confront it in their lives, in political debates, in nationwide contacts, and outside the cultural limitations.

### **The Processes of Moral Disengagement**

Disengagement of self-sanctions from cruel deeds can focus

- 1- Conduct and Moral Disengagement
- 2- The agentic role of action and Moral Disengagement

3- The effect of action and Moral Disengagement

4- The victim and Moral Disengagement

### **Conduct and Moral Disengagement**

Undesirable or dishonest actions cannot just be shown without undesirable penalties for the self. The behavior itself requests to be reassembled. If the essentially destructive actions appear to serve satisfactory drives, are compared against unadorned wrong-doings, or are just given a dissimilar, cleaner name, less or no adverse penalties for the individual's self may result.

**Moral Justification.** Moral justification defines how destructive actions are shown as helping morally right, suitable, or even required outcomes and drives. Violent behavior is defined by the harasser as an act of morality or even a need to reach required goals. One way of disengagement is describing cruel actions as however; it has an ethical resolution to make it socially suitable. Moral justification is first of a sequence of procedures recommended by Bandura which can encourage persons to avoid self-sanction and disturb private values (Bandura, 1991).

Moral justifications can be extremely active in persuading communal opinion; this is due to the strain of detecting misleading moral rights. Kathleen revealed the trouble arises from the following 4 bases. First. Individuals are usually vulnerable to dishonesty. Second Political statements are generally in the method of media, eradicating the non-verbal signs that could support the discovery of dishonesty. Third, People turn into overly attentive to persons due to societal decision prejudices. Fourth, politicians are critical of each other because dishonesty is not the rule of party-political principles, it is not normal for the community to be suspicious of ethical claims.

Kathleen also recognized 4 alternatives of moral-claim justifications in the political system. First, Individual moral values. Second, shared political ethics. Third, not normally

mutual morals. Fourth, the entitlement of cooperative profits McGraw & Kathleen M. (1998). Reasonings that demand private moral values and cooperative social profits are the most effective in determining public judgment. McGraw & Kathleen M. (1995)

**Euphemistic Labelling.** The label assumed to be a firm act plays a significant part in the assessment of that act. By “cleaning” linguistics, the method of injurious or hostile actions can be made flatter and calmer. Words with undesirable implications are avoided or exchanged by summaries, pictures with positive suggestions, or long, problematic technical descriptions (Bandura, 1999). Specially in the language of conflict euphemisms are quite general. Bomb attacks are accuracy attacks, surgical attacks, or air support; the wounded by bomb and gunfire attacks become security harm (Bolinger, 1980).

Euphemistic language defines shameful behavior as another method by which people can ethically disengage from ethical values. Euphemistic language is to make harmful and destructive actions reputable and lessen duty for it from the individual. Language forms individual belief methods that establish the base for sequences of action. With the support of complex reshaping, harmful behavior is made safe and suitable, and persons who are part of it are unconventional from sensitivity to the common sense of embarrassment. Adults are more likely to be involved in violent behavior when the harmful act is clean than when it is considered violence (Diener et al., 1975).

There exist different varieties of euphemisms.

***Sanitizing Language.*** By veiling harmful with clear words, harmful behavior itself develops more decent. Militaries waste individuals relatively more than murder them (Gambino & Richard, 1973).

***Bombing Missions.*** Bombing missions are implemented in the name of service to the mark and for the sake of communal value. Bombers were named as independent armed forces. The attacks are shown as unsoiled, and the wounded are expressively recorded as security harm (Hilartner, 1982).

***Sanitizing Euphemism.*** Sanitizing euphemism is usually castoff in fewer offensive actions that individuals do every day. Numerous govt. agencies, individuals are not made redundant. They are provided with an occupation with different development, making it appearance like they are presented with a career advancement. The presenter may communicate with occupational scholars to reshape lies in modest occupational contacts for the sake of final the deal as planned distortion (Safire, 1979).

***Advantageous Comparison.*** Soothing comparison as the third disengagement mechanism on the conduct level defines the predisposition to distinguish negative, destructive, behavior in contradiction of even superior murders or wrongdoings. The moral justification that people can organize to create destructive actions that look ethically suitable is called advantageous comparison. The procedure adventures divergence belief, which tails the statement that the awareness of social behavior is prejudiced by what it is related against. Individuals dissimilar their behavior with another example of more dishonest behavior and in doing this contrast their behavior is underestimated. The more dishonest the opposing behavior is more likely it is that one's damaging behavior will appear less evil (Bandura, 1999).

### **The agentic role of action and Moral Disengagement**

An inevitability for ethical control is the greeting of one's offense. If the duty for the destruction of one root is condensed and hidden, the opportunity of greeting accountability and self-control, correspondingly self-sanctions, is lessened awfully.

**Displacement of Responsibility.** Dissociative exercise, recognized as displacement of responsibility, works by misrepresenting the association among acts and the belongings they source. Milgram's famous experiment on compliance has been imitation numerous times since then and displayed the same outcomes for other countries, conditions, women and men, and even children (Smith & Mackie, 2000; p. 397).

When individuals decide to be suppliers to opposing outcomes, it primes to a robust process of ethical resistor linking themselves in destructive action while demanding to minimize the outcome of that action. They play the character of a mediator of moral disengagement and twitch to act in ways they normally disown if a suitable specialist admits duty for their actions. Personal responsibility for behavior motivates people to view their activities as coming from commanding figures under native duty. Not being the true mediators of their activities, they are protected from self-condemnation. Displacement of responsibility discovered horrible cold-heartedness through self-exemption mass accomplishments authorized communally. Self-exonerating regard for horrible orders is obvious in military slaughters such as the My Lai massacre (Kelman, 1973).

**Diffusion of Responsibility.** There is the exercise of diffusion of responsibility. It happens in a group of individuals, where with the growing number of individuals, the level of diffusion rises. Diffusion of responsibility is a famous phenomenon in psychological research, employment division, group making, cooperative action, or serving behavior.

The disengaging effect of others not only grasps accurately for cooperative procrastination but also for communal acts. Zimbardo (e.g., 2004) suggests a procedure model of deindividuation to describe especially undesirable communal acts. This model assumes that secrecy, large group, stimulation, and other situational aspects of shared and diffused

responsibility a critical aspect that can support deindividuation, a state in which separate group members are more simply willing to behave in generally self-possessed ways. Diffusion of Responsibility can be described simply in these words: When everyone is responsible, nonentity feels responsible (Bandura, 1999, p.198).

Responsibility is diffused by the separation of employment (Kelman, 1973).

Responsibilities that are divided appear innocent and calm to convey. This moves courtesy to the specifics of their precise job. Decision-making in clusters is a rehearsal that varieties well-mannered persons to act cruelly. The cooperative act offers privacy, which permits the failing of ethical controllers. Any destructive action passed out in the cluster can be related to others' acts. Persons in groups act cruelly they for myself detained and responsible for their activities (Zimbardo, 1995).

### **Victim and Moral Disengagement**

The step in which self-censure takes place also hinges on the way the culprits sight the individuals they abuse. The previous set of disengagement practices emphasizes on the sufferers of the hurtful act.

**Dehumanization.** Dehumanization is the procedure by which an individual or group is deprived of human characteristics. The target is no extended seen as a being with a state of mind, expectations, and apprehensions, but is represented as a slighter sub-human (Alleyne et al., 2014).

Dehumanization is known as one of the appliances of moral disengagement, it defends giving others with less ethical apprehension and sympathy and authenticates abusive behavior towards others (Noorden et al., 2014). Dehumanization contains the moral elimination and delegitimization of others (Tileage et al., 2007).

Through this procedure of delegitimization, dehumanization in the direction of others is helped, which in turn primes to moral prohibiting and the defense of dishonest behavior and actions towards people (Tileage et al., 2007). There are two characteristics of dehumanization: denial of individual human characteristics and denial of human nature attributes (Zhang et al., 2014). Uniquely human attributes state those features that show prejudice against a human from another animal level. Attributes comprise reasonableness, politeness, and refinement. Human nature characteristics contain features such as intervention, emotionalism, temperateness, and mental frankness, which victimizes a society from non-living things (Vaes et al., 2012). Denial of distinctively human characteristics primes to a metaphor-based dehumanization procedure that links the societal outgroup to non-humans, comparing them to animals (Noorden et al., 2014). Moral disengagement good predictor of aggressive, intimidatory, and antisocial behavior (Risser, 2016).

**Attribution of Blame.** Alike to the mechanisms of displacement and diffusion of responsibility, penalties for an individual's offenses could only be allocated if the individual admits duty for assignation in damaging behavior. Apart from dividing one's responsibility with other culprits or offering it on to representatives, criminals can also guilt the target for their disapproving behavior. One's actions are just perceived as a response to incitement through others or conditions. The result is a feeling of self-righteousness and defense on the sideways of the criminal.

### **Intervening in the Moral Disengagement Process**

There is rising attention to thoughtful procedure of moral disconnection (Kish et al., 2014; Gino et al., 2012).

### **Triggering Moral Disengagement**

There are irritating worries about how ethical detachment purposes as a procedure compare to as a character (Reynolds., 2014). In the greatest trials of moral disengagement procedures, Shu et al. examine that resentful people presented high levels of ethical detachment, as well as lessened aptitude to recall ethical guidelines (Shu et al.,2011).

Gino and Galinsky's prolonged result display that primer somebody to feel psychologically near to somebody who is resentful enlarges ethical disconnection about dishonest (Gino et al., 2012).

Paharia et al. also described ethically disconnected cognition occasioned by inspired procedure and discovered that persons were more likely to recommend ethical justifications for deprived employment performs when anticipating required facilities that cast off them, related to when they were anticipating similar decent or deal made under more satisfactory occupied situations (Paharia et al., 2013).

### **Reducing Moral Disengagement**

McAlister discovered that just vagueness of the procedures of ethical disconnection condensed persons' bents to untie (McAlister, 2001). A serious thoughtful intervention condensed stages of ethical disconnection in 9th students (Bustamante, 2014).

Barsky (2011) discovered that high levels of involvement in situation presentation goal line at work through persons less likely to ethically defend or move accountability two ethical disconnection mechanisms. Kish-Gephart et al. revealed that accent destruction that extremely self-interested actions will cause reduced probability that persons would ethically separate (Kish et al., 2014).

### **Amplifying Moral Disengagement**

Chugh and colleagues (Chugh, 2014) discovered that people were more vulnerable to the undesirable behavior penalties of ethical disconnection when they had been informed sense nervous and unconfident. Priming persons to consider their societal contacts with others permitted dehumanization. Similarly, feelings of individual distress cause moral disengagement (Paciello et al., 2013).

### **Moral Disengagement and Deviant Behavior**

Moral disengagement is a psychological procedure that permits persons to avoid feeling guilt or shame for engaging in activities that would normally be considered wrong or unethical. It is a mental process that allows persons to defend their actions, even if those actions are morally questionable. Deviant behavior is any behavior that goes against the norms of a society. It can be anything from minor infractions, such as shoplifting, to more serious crimes, such as murder.

### **Deviant Behavior**

The term deviant (from Latin *deviatio*) means an abnormality. The word deviant behavior is a problem-producing action done by a person that affects with pleasure a critical part act of one or others that is enough to make a social criticism or controller answer proposed to alteration or eliminate those actions. (Eremus, 2015).

In Angel's opinion (2016), deviant behavior is an action that deficiencies the conventionality and suitability of persons in culture. Divergent behavior defines an act that meaningfully breaks the recognized or arranged rules of a specified culture. It is a deviance that appeals to penalty and approval in civilization.

Diche (2016) defines divergent behavior as interrupting laid down norms and guidelines of a specified culture. It went additional to underline that divergent behavior is mutual wonder in adults who have run them to link confidence crazes and other monstrous delinquencies.

Gibbs (2014) defines divergent behavior as behavior that diverges from social rule. Deviancy is decent nor evil but must be estimated on a case basis. Such behavior may be defined as dissimilar, or unpredicted and may produce helpful undesirable answers from others.

### **Characteristics of Individuals with Deviant Behavior**

The next are the behavior conditions of deviant youths:

- Sufferers are not always required. Numerous actions of divergent behaviors are victimless. Examples are prostitution, betting, pornography, substance use and abuse.
- Unsuitable types of behavior or feelings under normal behaviors.
- They are always objective and cannot focus on life.
- A universal mood or sadness.
- They are constantly volatile and cannot motivate usually.
- They perceive society as a residence of do-it-or-die.
- Young adults are constantly at loggerhead turtle with persons. They generally have joint unfriendliness.
- They do not cooperate easily with people.
- They are reagents and cannot be faithful to the legal expert.
- Their presence is a hazard to sensible persons.
- Incapacity to shape or preserve suitable personal connection with people around them.

### **Types of Deviant Behavior in Adults**

Ibuchin (2016) recognized the sum of deviant behaviors that are dominant in society.

### **Examination Malpractice**

According to Ogbodo (2016), examination malpractice is the action of wrongdoing or desertion that breaches the rule of suitable practice before, during, and after an examination by anyone in any way is identical to misconduct. This is an offensive performance committed by the scholars, superintendents, and new mediators throughout and after inspection to have excessive benefits and receive undeserved marks.

### **Truancy**

Longe (2010), cited in Tor-Anyiin (2015), describes truancy as absence from school, colleges, and universities without approval, leaving school without permission, and escaping specific instructions, probably distinctive of adolescent rebellion, self-assertion and response over certain developing and psychological problems. Truancy is an indication of a psychosocial adjustment issue. It starts from being absent from school without acceptable knowledge of the father and or significant other and someone's poor attention to school, colleges, and universities;

Thus, according to Odomelaiam and Ajoku (2006), truancy is a state where a pupil loiters, rambles, and idles about, gallivants, rigmaroles, walks about, and walks around while lessons are progressing in the class. This routine makes scholars occupy time in unsuitable spaces which can lead to drug abuse in men and undesirable gestation in women. Dike (2015) described truancy contains exiting colleges and university sites and coming back when they lack authorization.

### **Bullying**

This is a violent action projected to hurt (Pascal, 2015). A bully is somebody who uses capability and strength to threaten and hurt those who are lesser and weaker occasionally the

bully uses arguments to threaten his or her victims. Some scholar's persecutor students on a path of presenting dominance over fresher and kind.

Okechukwu (2016) computed several methods of mistreatment such as somatic beating, blackmail oral embarrassment, and extortion. Communal types of bullying include: jerking, beating, cutting, threats, locking the prey inside a room, harsh mischievous, gossiping and making irrational demands, etc.

### **Lateness to school/college/University**

Lateness is a social issue that invites the consideration of the school/college/university authority; lateness is coming to school/college/university not on time. Pere (2014) proposes there is given time for renewal of college/university but some scholars come to school late when morning gathering is nearly over and when the educator is now in classroom instruction. This often primes to diversions in lectures.

### **Stealing**

Stealing is merely an act of taking another individual's possession by dishonesty or without consent and the reference of expression involves that stealing could contain both material and non-material things. According to Tor-Anyiin (2015), material belongings comprise books, food stuff, dresses, money, and any other physical things. While non - material things contain mental aspects like deceitfulness, taking of another individual's work as yours, or grassing in without warning to get information with the purpose of causing hurt or benefit for self or mediator.

Sandro (2018) described that most scholars spoil in the practice of attractive what does not. Be appropriate to them in college/university. That behavior if not checked can spring growth to other annoying behaviors in a scholar and may disturb their educational routines.

### **Drug Abuse**

This is uncritical usage of drugs without the clinician`s remedy than their core drive. Chamberlin (2015) pronounced that scholars in college/university and external the college/university setting have found smoke, cigarettes and other remedies not suggested by clinicians. Smoking cigarettes is often linked with drug addicts since some of the drugs are in the form of tattered leaves or other substances that are usually enfolded up in papers and burned like cigarettes. While drinking alcohol is a permanent activity of those who are frequently members of any cult. These cultists, as they are entitled drink all forms of alcohol to arouse them. Smoking and alcoholism are presently interesting issues. Some decades back it was unnoticed that children and youth smoked or went to bars to drink beer and ogogoro (hot drink).

### **Cultism**

A secret cult is stated to as a classification of worship that is expressed in customs and which is kept from the opinions of others except the cult followers. Members focus on cult language which is strange to them. The secret cult members carry out their dreadful activities at night. The Federal Government of Nigeria (1999) explains cultism or secret society as a systematized group with its own beliefs, and objectives, which are only acknowledged to their members. This occurs when a collection of scholars comes organized under a sunshade to threaten associated scholars or distract the actions of the college for their sinful independence (Wadsworth, 2000). Some students are included in cultism to make up for shortages either educationally, communally, or economically.

**Sex offences**

This contains numerous degrees of sexual misbehavior presented by young adults which comprise homosexuality, onanism, premarital sex, lesbianism, and abortion.

**Causes of Deviant Behavior**

Reasons for deviant behavior among young adults are untruth in particularities of interconnectedness and dealings of individuals with nearby world and societal settings (Lewis & Frydenberg, 2004). Three chief sources of deviant behavior are biological, psychological, and social. The biological reasons are stated in the physiological uniqueness of teenager which is their damages. The psychological reason lies in the individualities of their temper, and prominence appeal. The social reasons imitate the contact of the teenager with culture, family, and college. The following can be perceived as plain reasons for divergent behaviors in colleges, and universities.

**Family background**

Family is the first socializing mediator that a child encounters. Often the requirements for deviant behaviors lurk in the household. A family instructs a kid, on elementary ethics, behavioral labels, and rules. The emotional domain of the youth's essence is molded in the family. Imperfections that happen due to home teaching are very solid to fix. This is not debatable that a kid is born and carried up in the household. Family is the residence of schooling in life. The kid is visible to numerous phases of education before being to the proper type of schooling. Chuks (2016) stated the aspects within the home and deprived paternal affiliation are capable of refinement children who disobey in college or university.

## **Mass media**

Children`s experience with immoral TV series, dishonest journals, and pornographic movies and resources, makes scholars to be indulged in corrupt behavior. This has added to high-hazard level divergent behaviors in colleges. Stan Cohen, 2002 claims that broadcasting is elaborate in the construction of ethical fears. Ethical panic involves overstressing the level and consequence of social issues.

McQuail (2003) demanded that the net develop the modern standard to goad an ethical panic at the comfort in which clear erotic content can enter the home and be retrieved even by kids. Kento (2015) suggested that belongings of unpleasant media appear to have an undesirable impression on the personality growth of children rather than an optimistic impression. Young adults find it tough to regulate upright private, occupational, societal, and scholastic strains.

## **Peer group**

The peer group is a group that defines certain rules and norms for members of that group. Every member has to obey those who maintain their attitude and the ethics of peers. Any discontinuity among groups can lead to severe consequences for peers.

## **Biological factors**

These comprise genetic factors such as psychopath (such as inherited antisocial behavior), and intellect damage. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is a neuron behavior developing disorder largely categorized by the “co-existence of intended problems and hyperactivity with any behavior happening occasionally alone”. This behavior is common with children, particularly during their school phase and it means they show highly deviant behavior.

### **Societal factors**

Societal factors are insistent difficulties influencing students to divergent behaviors. The culture practices development and develops composite so also do social aspects initiating scholars` divergent behavior (Agi, 2016). The rise in divergent behavior in our culture cannot be overstressed. Onyejiaku (2010) carried onward psychological factors such as mental level and personality traits as aspects that contribute to deviant behavior.

### **Economic Factors**

Economic factors inducing deviant behavior in young adults are frequently interrelated to the level of pay the youth have and or the level of income of their family.

### **Summary**

Young adults face numerous issues in their transition to adulthood, including issues related to personality, criminal intentions, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior. Personality traits, such as self-esteem, attitude, and behavior, are important factors that shape the development of young adults and can influence their future decisions. Criminal intentions in young adults involve both intentions to commit a crime and the actual commission of a crime. This is especially true, where criminal activities are rampant and often go unpunished. Moral disengagement can lead to a lack of empathy and moral reasoning, which can further lead to an increased likelihood of engaging in deviant behavior. Deviant behavior often includes illegal activities, such as drug use, theft, vandalism, and violence, and can lead to criminal prosecution and punishment. Young adults need to understand the implications of their actions and the consequences they may face. Families, schools, and communities must work together to help young adults better understand the importance of making responsible decisions and developing a strong moral compass.

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **Trait Theory (Eysenck, 1977)**

Trait theory describes how people diverge from one another based on the strength and passion of basic trait dimensions. The five-factor model signifies five core traits; openness, conscientiousness, extroversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism which interact to form human personality. Sleep (2021) indicated that less conscientiousness, less agreeableness, and high neuroticism rise to anger, mental distress, and rebellious behavior among young adults.

Eysenck is a trait psychologist who created a theory on the relationship between personality and crime (Eysenck and Gudjonsson 1989).

Individuals possess certain characteristics, or traits, that make them predisposed to engage in certain activities and behaviors. Trait theory can also help to explain why some young adults are more likely to be involved in deviant behavior in certain contexts or situations; for example, a young adult who is more extroverted and prone to taking risks may be more likely to be involved in divergent behavior when a group of peers. Positive relationships were found between extraversion and criminality (Delcea & Enache, 2021).

### **Strain Theory (Robert Agnew, 1992)**

Robert Agnew developed general strain theory (GST) in 1992, developing an important variety of strain theory and one of the major theories of crime. But classic strain theorists, he claimed that strains burden people into pleasing in lawbreaking through undesirable feelings they create. General strain theory emphasizes on comprehensive series of strains, counting incapability to attain a variation of goals, loss of appreciated belongings, and undesirable behavior by others. It has also been useful for numerous kinds of crime and abnormality, including commercial lawbreaking, police deviation, harassment, self-destruction, and terrorism.

Strain theories state that definite strains or stressors raise the possibility of crime. He also took a comprehensive methodology to other theories of crime, social control, and social learning theories (Akers, 1985; Hirschi, 1969), by using their key ideas to support and clarify why some individuals are more likely than others to survive with strains through crime.

Strain theory has been used to explain deviant behavior in young adults. This theory suggests that when young adults are exposed to certain social and economic strains, they may be more likely to engage in deviant behavior. These strains can include poverty, lack of access to resources, and lack of social support. These strains create a situation in which young adults feel a lack of control over their lives and thus may be more likely to engage in criminal behavior to gain control or feel a sense of power. Additionally, the lack of resources and support can lead to feelings of alienation, which can lead to further deviant behavior in young adults. Strain theory also suggests that the more strains an individual is exposed to, the more probable they are to be involved in deviant behavior. Therefore, if young adults are exposed to multiple sources of strain, they are more likely to engage in illegal behavior than those who are exposed to fewer strains.

### **Moral disengagement theory**

Moral disengagement theory proposes that people are inclined to cognitively discrete ethical factors from a then immoral actions in a direction to explain appealing to them (Bandura et al., 1996; Bandura, 1999, 2015). People employ one or more procedures to untie self-sanctions from immoral actions to authenticate and justify actions, letting them to involved in or live with the penalties of their immoral actions.

Moral disengagement theory proposes that persons can be influenced by their environment and culture to behave in ways that are contrary to their values. In young adults,

these influences can lead to deviant behavior, which is defined as any behavior that is contrary to societal norms or expectations. Moral disengagement theory posits that people can make a cognitive shift in their thinking that allows them to rationalize their behavior as being within the boundaries of their moral code. This cognitive shift can lead to a decrease in feelings of guilt and responsibility for their actions, allowing them to continue engaging in deviant behavior. In addition, people may become desensitized to their behavior, leading to further deviance. The combination of influences from peers, media, and the environment can lead to an increase in deviant behavior in young adults, such as substance abuse, delinquency, and other criminal activities. Moral disengagement is directly connected to violent and ferocious conduct (Espejo-Siles et al., 2020).

Thereby, it can be concluded that when an adult experience strain, they feel justified in their actions leading to moral disengagement as a way to convince themselves that there is a justification behind their deviant actions in the given circumstances. The above-discussed theories strengthen the understanding and mechanism behind the deviant acts of individuals.

Theoretical frameworks provide a way of understanding the world, our behavior, and our relationships. Traits theory, strain theory, and moral disengagement theory are three important theories that can be used to explain deviant behavior in young adults. Traits theory suggests that the individual's personality traits, such as low self-control, impulsivity, and risk-taking, can lead to criminal or deviant behavior. Strain theory suggests that when persons experience stress or strain, they may resort to criminal or deviant behavior as a way to cope with their frustration. Lastly, moral disengagement theory suggests that individuals can dissociate themselves from their moral and ethical standards and thereby engage in criminal or deviant behavior. When these three theories are useful to the study of deviant behavior in young adults, it is possible to gain a

better understanding of why young adults engage in such behavior. For example, if a young adult has low self-control and is experiencing a higher level of strain, they may be more likely to engage in behavior that is outside of the norm. Additionally, if a young adult can dissociate themselves from their moral and ethical standards, they may be more likely to engage in deviant behavior. By understanding the underlying theories and motivations behind deviant behavior, it is possible to develop interventions and prevention strategies that can reduce the occurrence of such behavior.

## Chapter II

### Literature Review

Personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior are essential factors that affect and contribute to the growth of criminal behavior in young adults. The understanding of these aspects is important in addressing the root bases of criminal activities and developing effective prevention and intervention policies. This literature review will explore and synthesize existing research studies on these factors, their interrelationships, and how they affect the existence of deviant behavior in young adults. The review aims to provide insight into real approaches for avoiding and reducing delinquent behaviors among young adults.

There were significant positive relationships between psychoticism and neuroticism, people who higher scores on neuroticism had scored higher on psychoticism. Relationships were seen between trait criminality and psychoticism and between addiction and psychoticism. Positive relationships were discovered between extraversion and delinquency. Large important relationships were revealed between neuroticism and criminality. A small negative relationship was found between education and criminality (those people who were less educated scored higher on trait criminality) such that those less educated were also those more likely to commit a crime., extraversion, neuroticism psychoticism, and untruth did not predict crime (Delcea & Enache, 2021).

Siserman et al. (2020) In terms of sex fifty percent of female and fifty percent of male members enlisted from universities had surveyed additional years of education matched to those in prison. Concerning personality traits, governing for, gender, education, and age, extraversion, neuroticism, psychoticism, and lying did not predict crime. Controlling for age, gender, and education, addiction had a positive effect on crime. The greater the score on addiction, the

greater the predicted likelihood that a person is devoted to a crime. However, the difference was small with those in prison having an average of 10.39 years of education whereas those enlisted in external prison had 11.63 years (Siserman et al., 2019).

Bo et al., (2019) an imprisoned person with higher psychopathy checklist-revised scores is more disposed to commit violent criminal offenses upon being free from prison. Neuroticism predicts severe crime and recidivism. Sleep (2021) discussed less agreeableness, less conscientiousness, and high neuroticism rise to violence, mental distress, and antisocial behavior among people.

Fehrman et al., with 1885 participants i.e., drug users with firm personality traits i.e., impulsivity and ambition seeking are also soldiers in substance abusers paralleled to non-consumers. Inferior levels of emotionality i.e., neuroticism and lower agreeableness are related to criminal behavior (Međedović, 2017). Further research also associates with addiction e.g., alcohol, gambling to crime, use of psychoactive substances, and delinquent behavior (Lind et al., 2015).

Bevens & Loughnan, (2019) there was a comparison between sexually aggressive men and non-sexually aggressive men, using a doubtful scheme and reducing the veridicality of women's communications. People with criminal behavior are more likely to have low levels of conscientiousness and agreeableness (Grice, 2019). Sex offenders show high levels of neuroticism as compared to non-sexual offenders (Carvalho & Nobre, 2013). Superordinate subjects of sensation seeking and dislocation of anger for mothers towards women explain the repeated poor impulse control and gender-based hate (Efrati et al., 2019). Ego depletion reasons people to act out in unfiltered ways and have less control to elicit actions that might be criminal (Staller et al. 2018).

Sagone & De Caroli, (2013) Conscientiousness and agreeableness were negatively predicting moral disengagement. Openness, extraversion, and neuroticism were positively predicting moral disengagement. Egan et al. (2015) observed less agreeableness and conscientiousness were associated with higher moral disengagement, there were no relations among and extraversion, moral disengagement and emotional constancy. A research revealed agreeableness and emotional instability were linked to moral disengagement (Caprara et al. 2017).

Neuroticism and agreeableness could have triggered cyberbullying through moral disengagement. Moral disengagement could have mediated associations between personal aspects like empathy, cyberbullying and aggression (Wang et al., 2017).

Moral disengagement effects future anger and bullying (Wang et al. 2016). Agreeableness is positively related to moral disengagement; extraverts were positively linked with morally disengage. (Caprara et al. 2017). Adolescents who have less agreeableness and conscientiousness and more extraversion have a condensed sensitivity to ethical norms (De Angelis et al. 2016).

Dinić & Smederevac, (2018) High agreeableness adolescents have a wish to keep social relations, involve in low aggression. This model compromises high thorough explanation of association between moral disengagement and agreeableness. Agreeableness was associated with moral disengagement (Rengifo & Laham, 2022).

Wang et al., (2019) Adolescents with high moral disengagement are likely to cyberbully others. Moral disengagement act as mediator in the relation between agreeableness and cyberbullying. Moral disengagement mediated the association between personality traits and cyberbullying (Zhou et al., 2018).

Jin et al., (2022) Agreeableness and conscientiousness were significantly negatively predict online deviant behavior (Palmieri et al., 2021). Some negative personality variables these are dark triad traits, impulsivity and neuroticism are measured risk aspects that can enhance online deviant behaviors (Moor & Anderson, 2019).

Lim et al. (2016) showed personality traits are valuable to affect future behavior. Contestants with high openness to experience and new searches in life are not disposed to deviant conduct (Jia et al., 2013). Vukovi (2018) debates conscientiousness has significant association with deviant behavior that proposes people with less conscientious contribute more to deviant actions.

Santos and Eger (2014), Abdullah and Marican (2016) and Lim et al. (2016) discovered extraversion was effective predictor of deviant behavior. People who high on personality traits were persuaded to experience negative sentiments which was associated with conflict and lead to deviant actions (Abdullah & Marican, 2016).

Zhou et al. (2019) neuroticism was positively linked to moral disengagement. It was positively connected with displacement of responsibility, distortion of consequences, advantageous comparison, and dehumanization. It was not associated with euphemistic labeling, diffusion of responsibility, moral justification, and attribution of blame. Extraversion was significantly negatively linked with moral disengagement. It was significantly negatively associated with moral justification, distortion of consequences, attribution of blame, euphemistic labeling, displacement of responsibility, and dehumanization, and it had no relationship with advantageous comparison and diffusion of responsibility. Openness to experience had no association with moral disengagement and also its eight mechanisms. Agreeableness was significantly negatively connected with moral disengagement and its eight mechanisms.

Conscientiousness was significantly negatively linked with moral disengagement and also its seven mechanisms except euphemistic labeling.

Aleksic and Vukovi (2018) observed there is a reverse relationship between agreeableness and deviant behavior. An individual with low agreeableness is likely to show aggression and more excited for conflict, thus likely to contribute to deviant actions.

Killer et al., (2019) Moral disengagement significantly positively predicts youths' online deviant behavior. Moral disengagement act as mediator for mechanism of nearly variables predicting online deviant behaviors (Fang et al., 2020). Kindness-related traits are negatively associated with moral disengagement. Agreeableness and conscientiousness can negatively affect people's moral disengagement (Rengifo & Laham, 2022).

Sijtsema et al. (2019) there were positive relations between moral disengagement and antisocial behavior and these mechanisms may be predictors of aggression. Participants sentenced for crimes linked with mechanisms of moral disengagement who have higher use of violence.

Walters defined proactive criminal thinking as moral disengagement and observed that proactive criminal thinking act as mediator for agreeableness of offending association and also firm of criminal thinking in past and future crime connection, and weak self-efficacy to escape future legal distress. Self-indulgent and moral disengagement was found to mediate crime permanence, thus criminal thinking and moral disengagement were not only negatively associated with psychological well-being which primes to antisocial behavior, but also mediated the past crime and future crime linking. Criminal thinking mediated the juvenile delinquency and adult criminality association (Walters, 2019).

Jain and Sharma (2020) Moral disengagement in the model that described variant goes up significantly for organizational deviance and also for interpersonal deviance. Moral disengagement partially mediates the association between breach of psychological contract and interpersonal deviance as well as between breach of psychological contract and organizational deviance. Workplace deviance is more influential when a breach of psychological contract functions through moral disengagement. Breach of psychological contract significantly affects both types of workplace deviant behavior i.e., organizational and interpersonal with moral disengagement partially mediating the association.

Zhang et al., (2018) The relationship of narcissistic leaders with deviant behaviors discloses that moral disengagement helps personalities to expose their true colors. The significant positive relationship between narcissism and moral disengagement. The significant positive relationship between moral disengagement and knowledge hiding. The positive relationship between narcissism and knowledge hiding is mediated by moral disengagement (Jabeen et al., 2021). Narcissistic people are very motivated to create their grip on the workplace (Huang et al., 2019).

Some negative results of moral disengagement i.e., unethical behaviors and job insecurity (Huang, et al., 2017) and negative attributes ((Huang & Li, 2019), and counterproductive work behavior (Miao, Humphrey, & Qian, 2017). Moral disengagement can principal to deviant workplace actions. Zhan, Li, Liu, Han, and Muhammad (2018) suggested that morally disengaged employees would indulge in deviant workplace behavior. Zhang et al., (2018) study also supports the result that moral disengagement is positively associated with deviant behaviors. When a person is morally disengaged, he or she may be indulging in deviant behavior to defend

the actions. Moral disengagement is negatively mediated between employee creativity and cronyism (Naz., 2020).

The study of Fida et al. (2015) showed moral disengagement act as a mediator between stressors and deviant behaviors. Workplace hazing is associated with moral disengagement and organizational deviance. Workplace hazing were positively predicting organizational deviant behavior, negative word-of-mouth, and moral disengagement. Moral disengagement has an effect on organizational deviant behavior. The workplace hazing has indirect impact on organizational deviance and negative word-of-mouth via moral disengagement was significant (Raza et al., 2023).

Finkel et al. (2021) childhood experiences of domestic violence are significantly positively associated with violent extremism, people who have been showing domestic violence in their childhood, are at a bigger risk of rising violent extremism leanings. childhood exposure to domestic violence has a significantly positive association with moral disengagement. People with domestic violence in childhood are likely to grow a high level of moral disengagement. Moral disengagement was observed to be significantly positively associated with violent extremism. People who score high on moral disengagement are more likely to support violent extremist beliefs and those who are exposed to violence have a higher chance of increasing moral disengagement towards supporting and committing violence, thus increasing the chance of committing violence (Caprara et al., 2014; Hyde et al., Wang et al., 2017).

### **Rationale of the study**

The purpose of this study is to gain an in-depth understanding of the variables that play their role in predicting deviant behavior in young adults. Although numerous studies have explored the nature of deviance in adolescents and adults globally. However, literature is scarce about

criminal sentiments and moral disengagement that leads to deviance. In recent years, deviant behavior could be identified as actions that are deviation from the culture norms and has become an intimidating issue globally. It has been noticed that the behavior of young adults has become challenging. Young adults are often seen involved in deviant behavior increasing generally day by day. Deviant behavior is usually seen as a cause of peer pressure, family conflicts, bio psychosocial factors. There are societal factors that trigger deviant behavior such as poverty, lack of religious morality, broken family, bad peer groups, and poor socialization. Past research has addressed various forms of different crimes or deviance in which young adults were being involved such as crimes like drug addiction, theft, excessive alcohol use, and assault, etc. Cunha et al., (2018) observed that individual personality traits are a predictor of criminal behavior. In current times young adults are often involved in cybercrimes as well. There is a dearth of literature related to personality traits, sentiments, and moral disengagement.

It is believed that to better understand the rationale behind deviant acts of individuals their sentiments and mechanism of moral justification also need to be explored. The current study is an attempt to explore personal factors like personality, and attitudes of Pakistani young adults towards law, court, and police and their tolerance for law violation, and the other aspect is to see how young adults morally engage with society. To sum up, the current research aims to provide an in-depth insight into several factors that contribute to understanding the interplay between personality factors, internal moral cognitive progress, and attitudes of young adults in shaping their behavior. The findings of the present study would help in designing culturally sensitive preventive measures and intervening strategies for young adults to curb crime rates and reduce the prevalence of deviant behavior in young adults. Ultimately strategies would help in promoting community wellbeing and stable positive personalities in young adults.

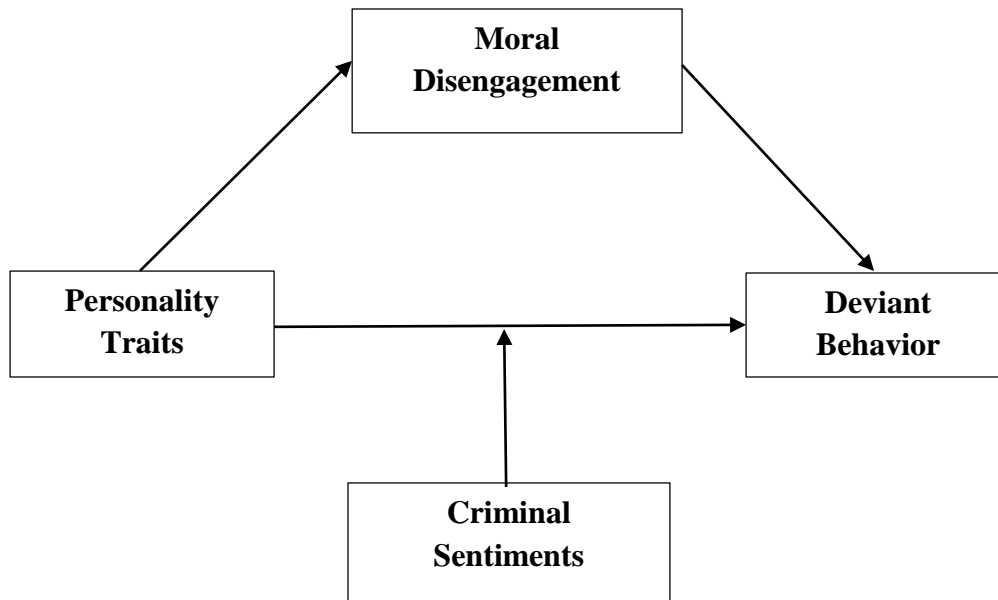
**Objectives of the study**

- To observe the relationship among personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior.
- To identify personality traits, criminal sentiments, and moral disengagement as predictors of deviant behavior.
- To examine gender differences in personality traits, criminal sentiments, and moral disengagement as predictors of deviant behavior.
- To explore educational differences in personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior.
- To identify acts of violence differences in personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior.
- To examine income differences in personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior.
- To explore moral disengagement acts as a mediator between personality traits and deviant behavior.
- To observe criminal sentiments, act as a moderator between the relationship between personality traits and deviant behavior

**Hypotheses**

- Extraversion and neuroticism will be positively associated with criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior.
- Agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness to experience will be negatively correlated with criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior.

- Extraversion, neuroticism, criminal sentiments, and moral disengagement will be positive predictors of deviant behavior; agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness to experience will be negative predictors of deviant behavior.
- There will be gender differences in personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior.
- There will be educational differences in personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior.
- There will be income wise differences in personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior.
- Moral disengagement will act as a mediator between personality traits and deviant behavior.
- Criminal sentiments will act as moderators of the relationship between personality traits and deviant behavior

**Hypothetical model**

## **Chapter III**

### **Method**

This chapter presents the research design, sample and sampling strategy, Inclusion criteria, exclusion criteria, assessment tools, and procedure for carrying out this research.

#### **Research design**

Correlational design was used to investigate correlation in personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior in young adults.

#### **Sample and sampling strategy**

Non-probability purposive sampling was used in this research. Non-probability sampling technique is a procedure in which the researcher chooses a sample based on the subjective judgment of the researcher rather than random selection (Dodge, 2008). Convenience sampling includes using participants who are “convenient” to the researcher. There is no design whatsoever in receiving these respondents—they may be enlisted merely by asking individuals who are present in the street, in a public building, or a workplace. Data was collected from young adults in Lahore. The sample size is the subset of a population required to ensure accurate results according to Sekaran & Bouige (2010). The sample was comprised of 242 young adults with an age range 18 to 35 years.

#### **Inclusion Criteria**

- A general population with age ranges from 18-35 was included.
- Male and female both genders were included.
- Young adults from Lahore were included.

#### **Exclusion Criteria**

- People who have been convicted of any severe crime.

- People with any physical disability that hinder them in responding.
- People who are currently serving jail time.
- People with any psychological illness

**Table 1***Demographic Characteristics of University Students (N=242)*

Characteristics	<i>M(SD)</i>	<i>f (%)</i>
Age	22.84(3.05)	
Gender		
Female		121(50)
Male		121(50)
Education		
B.A/B. S (hon)		159(65.7)
M.A/ M.Sc.		26(10.7)
M.Phil./MS		57(23.6)
Marital Status		
Married		26(10.7)
Unmarried		216(89.3)
Family Type		
Nuclear		165(68.2)
Joint		77(31.8)
Monthly Income		
Below 50,000		26(10.7)
50,000 to 75,000		61(25.2)
75,000 to 100,000		41(16.9)
Above 100,000		114(47.1)
Residential Area		
Rural		58(24)
Urban		184(76)
Any Violent Behavior?		
No		199(82.2)
Yes		43(17.8)

## **Operational Definitions**

### **Personality**

It is the more or less established and durable society of an individual's character, temper, aptitude and body that regulate his exceptional adjustment to his environment (Eysenck, 1952). It is normally defined as, person's unique and fairly stable designs of behavior, views and emotions. (Baron, 1993).

### **Criminal Sentiments**

Criminal sentiments are definite as a group of attitudes and views demonstrating proximal private and personal provision for unlawful actions. These sentiments have been discovered to characterize three concepts: attitudes toward law, court and police, neutralizations, and identification with criminal others (Andrews & Wormith, 1984).

### **Moral Disengagement**

According to Bandura (1999), Moral disengagement describe the process by which a person influences himself that moral values do not apply to him within a specific state or context.

### **Deviant Behavior**

Goode (2008) describes deviant behavior as an activity, views and bodily features that breakdown social rules and produce undesirable responses. In his view, deviant behavior may be mild or extreme. It is also defined as the identification of conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder (Mushtaq & Kauser, 2012).

### **Assessment Protocol**

Four assessment measures and personal information was used for assessment of personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement and deviant behavior in young adults.

- Demographic Information Sheet

- Big Five Inventory
- Criminal Sentiments Scale
- Moral Disengagement scales
- Deviant Behavior Scale

### **Demographic Information Sheet**

A self-build demographic information sheet will be used to get information from young adults such as age, gender, education, marital status, family type, monthly income, residential area, have been ever involved in any criminal activity such as theft, deception, physical hurting someone?

### **Big Five Inventory (Rammstedt & John, 2005)**

The BFI consists of 10 items, and is a short version of the well-established 44-item Big Five Inventory (Lang et al., 2001). The items of the BFI are rated on a five-point Likert scale ranging (1 = *Strongly Disagree*, 2 = *Disagree a little*, 3 = *neither agree nor disagree*, 4 = *Agree a little*, 5 = *Strongly Agree*). Acceptably high test-retest correlations have been demonstrated for BFI scales in prior research, ranging between .76 and .93 (Rammstedt & John, 2005).

### **Criminal Sentiments Scale (Andrews & Wormith, 1984)**

The Criminal Sentiments Scale (CSS) is used to assess youths' criminal attitudes and a 41-item paper-and-pencil measure. The items can be categorized into five underlying factors: Attitudes toward the Law, Attitudes toward the Court, Attitudes towards Police, Tolerance for Law Violations (TLV), and Identifications with Criminal Others (ICO). Items are scored using a 5-point Likert-type scale ranging (1 = *Strongly Agree*, 2 = *Agree*, 3 = *Neutral*, 4 = *disagree*, 5 = *strongly disagree*) and scaled in positive and negative directions. The Cronbach  $\alpha$  for the

aggregate CSS-M scale was 0.87. For the subscale, the LCP, TLV, and ICO have alpha reliability of 0.83, 0.69, and 0.62 respectively.

### **Moral Disengagement Scales (Bandura, 2002)**

Moral Disengagement scales were adapted scales developed by Bandura (2002) and Hymel, Rocke-Henderson, and Bonanno (2005), to examine the existence of the eight broad categories of moral disengagement. These eight broad categories are cognitive restructuring/moral justification, euphemistic labeling, advantageous comparison, and displacement of responsibility, diffusion of responsibility, disregard or distortion of consequences, dehumanization, and attribution of blame. Responses to all item scales were fixed on a five-point scale reflecting the degree to which respondents agreed or disagreed with the statement. The composite moral disengagement yielded Cronbach alpha  $\alpha$  coefficient of .82

### **Deviant Behavior Scale (Mushtaq & Kauser, 2012)**

A Self-Constructed Deviant Behavior Scale (Mushtaq & Kauser, 2012) comprising 76 items was used. The analysis identified three factors of deviant behavior scale ( $\alpha=.87$ ) naming conduct disorder (CD;  $\alpha=.96$ ), intermittent explosive disorder (IED;  $\alpha=.95$ ), and oppositional defiant disorder (ODD;  $\alpha=.93$ ). The response was required on a scale ranging (1 = rarely, 2 = *sometimes*, 3 = *often*, 4 = *almost always*).

### **Procedure**

First of all, the topic was approved by DGC. Permission to use scale was sought from all the authors of the scales. The researcher had identified the study's exclusion criteria, the researcher assured the participant that all information obtained from them would be confidential and the student's consent was taken away. The goal of the research was described to them. Demographic information sheets, along with questionnaires were administered in a timely manner. These

questionnaires were required to be completed at the beginning of the study within a maximum of 15 to 20 minutes. Then, any question or hesitation about instructions was cleared. Data was entered in SPSS version 26 and then analyzed honestly. By using statistical analysis data was organized and tested through different analyses which included correlation, t-test, ANOVA, regression, mediation, and moderation. Final results were arranged according to hypotheses and a conclusion was drawn from findings.

### **Ethical Considerations**

To carry out this study, the following ethical consideration was taken care of:

- The topic was approved by DGC, School of Professional Psychology, University of Management and technology, Lahore.
- The permissions from authors of the scale were taken.
- Data were collected from members who met the required criteria. The members were definite the confidentiality of the information.
- All the members were educated about the nature and purpose of the research.
- A formal consent form was selected by each member before filling out the questionnaire.
- The study kept up the secrecy of the participants.
- Results were accurately represented by the researcher.

### **Statistical Analysis**

Data analysis was done using the SPSS 26 version. Descriptive analysis was used for demographics' mean and standard deviation. Cronbach alpha reliability analysis was used for scales and subscales. Linear correlation analysis was run to see the association among personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior in young adults. Multiple hierarchical regression was run to see the moderating role of criminal sentiments in the relationship

between personality traits and deviant behavior in young adults. Further multiple hierarchical regression was run to see the mediation role of moral disengagement in the relationship between personality traits and deviant behavior in young adults. An Independent sample *t*-test was run to see differences in gender, education, and any violent act? in term of personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement and deviant behavior in young adults. Anova for monthly income in terms of personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior in young adults

## Chapter IV

### Results

The data was analyzed in different steps where the initial step included the preliminary analysis, and psychometric properties of scales were analyzed. Preliminary analysis included a screening of data by checking the outliers, missing values, and normality. The second step explained the relationship in personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior in young adults. The third step elaborated the detailed information regarding predictors of deviant behavior in young adults. The fourth step explained the gender differences, education, and any violence act? And monthly income differences etc. in deviant behavior of young adults. These differences were found by using t-test and ANOVA. In the last step mediating effect of moral disengagement and the moderating role of criminal sentiments explained by using regression (Process Macro). All the analysis performed through SPSS version 26.

**Table 2**

*Psychometric Properties of Personality Traits, Criminal Sentiments, Moral Disengagement and Deviant Behavior in young adults (N = 242)*

Variables	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	Range	Cronbach's $\alpha$	Skewness	Kurtosis
Extroversion	6.81	2.45	2-10	.67	-.29	-1.23
Agreeableness	6.68	2.40	2-10	.69	-.52	-1.01
Conscientiousness	6.45	2.71	2-10	.83	-.25	-1.53
Neuroticism	5.40	2.37	2-10	.72	.20	-1.09
Openness	6.57	2.66	2-10	.76	-.41	-1.44
Criminal Sentiments	113.97	15.43	61-159	.78		
ATLCP	67.30	8.45	37-95	.57	-.33	1.89
TFLV	28.31	7.21	13-44	.75	-.49	-.45
IWCO	18.35	4.21	8-28	.60	-.22	-.51

Moral Disengagement	67.52	16.40	36-95	.94		
MJ	7.00	2.19	4-12	.59	.25	-.75
EL	8.87	2.74	4-12	.77	-.52	-1.03
AC	9.25	2.84	4-12	.83	-.71	-.84
DR	8.41	2.34	4-12	.56	.05	-1.12
DIS	8.30	2.18	4-12	.57	-.01	-.82
DC	8.98	2.57	4-12	.73	-.64	-.78
DEHUM	8.79	2.92	4-12	.83	-.43	-1.25
AOB	7.89	2.41	4-12	.60	-.22	-1.04
Deviant Behavior	142.99	53.31	76-273	.98		
CD	63.80	21.78	32-116	.95	.82	-.37
IED	38.35	14.84	20-75	.94	.99	-.05
ODD	40.83	19.52	24-89	.97	1.19	.15

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*Note.* ES = extroversion; AS = agreeableness; CS = conscientiousness; NS = neuroticism; OS = openness; ATLCP = attitude toward law, court, police; TFLV = tolerance for law violation; IWCO = identification with criminal others; MJ = moral justification; EL = euphemistic language; AC = advantageous comparison; DOR = displacement of responsibility; DISOR = diffusion of responsibility; DC = distorting consequences; DEHUM = dehumanization; AOB = attribution of blame; CD = conduct disorder; IED = intermittent explosive disorder; ODD = oppositional defiant disorder.

Results of the reliability analysis showed that the Cronbach's alpha value for extroversion was .67. Agreeableness showed moderate consistency of the scale and hence items are reliable at .69. The " $\alpha$ " value for conscientiousness was .83 that suggested high internal consistency among all the items of the scale. Neuroticism scale showed .72 it was a good value of reliability. The reliability value for openness to experience scale was .76. Criminal sentiments scale showed good internal consistency which was .78 and for subscales these are attitude toward law, court, police scale it was .57 which was good level of reliability. The Cronbach's  $\alpha$  value for tolerance for law violence scale was .75 which was good and identification with criminal others showed good reliability which was .60.

Moral disengagement indicated excellent internal consistency of .94 and for subscales these are moral justification the value of reliability was .59 that was good internal consistency value. Euphemistic language subscale has reliability value of .77 which indicated high consistency and advantageous comparison also showed high reliability which was .83. The subscales displacement of responsibility explains good internal consistency value was .56. Diffusion of responsibility subscale has reliability value of .57 which indicated good consistency and distorting consequences also showed good reliability which was .73. The subscales dehumanization explains high internal consistency value was .83. Attribution of blame subscale has reliability value of .60 which indicated good consistency Here deviant behavior scale had  $\alpha$  value .98 which was very high internal consistency value for the scale and for conduct disorder the value was .95 that was high reliability. Intermittent explosive disorder subscale has reliability value of .94 which indicates high consistency However, oppositional defiant disorder subscale showed high internal consistency among items which was .97.

**Table 3**

*Relationship between Personality Traits, Criminal Sentiments, Moral Disengagement and Deviant Behavior in Young Adults (N = 242)*

Variables	N	M	SD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
1. ES	242	6.81	2.45	-																			
2. AS	242	6.68	2.40	-.39***	-																		
3. CS	242	6.45	2.71	.19***	-.17***	-																	
4. NS	242	5.40	2.37	-.37***	.25***	-.18***	-																
5. OS	242	6.57	2.66	-.09	.11	-.14*	-.02	-															
6. ATL	242	67.30	8.45	.00	.06	.05	-.02	.01	-														
7. TLV	242	28.31	7.21	-.32***	.540***	-.28***	.29***	.10	.29***	-													
8. ICO	242	18.35	4.21	-.21***	.40***	-.09	.21***	.07	.30***	.64***	-												
9. MJ	242	7.00	2.19	-.20***	.21***	-.10	.21***	.12*	.18***	.42***	.26***	-											
10. EL	242	8.87	2.74	-.36***	.52***	-.16**	.30***	.08	.23***	.69***	.58***	.50***	-										
11. AC	242	9.25	2.84	-.37***	.57***	-.25***	.29***	.11	.26***	.76***	.63***	.48***	.82***	-									
12. DR	242	8.41	2.34	-.23***	.33***	-.13*	.19***	.22***	.21***	.43***	.40***	.50***	.52***	.59***	-								
13. DOR	242	8.30	2.18	-.18***	.27***	-.16*	.11	.10	.16*	.44***	.31***	.45***	.43***	.52***	.59***	-							
14. DC	242	8.98	2.57	-.32***	.44***	-.14*	.27***	.12	.22***	.65***	.50***	.44***	.71***	.64***	.52***	.47***	-						
15. DH	242	8.79	2.92	-.37***	.49***	-.21***	.33***	.14*	.25***	.64***	.55***	.49***	.72***	.64***	.64***	.51***	.69***	-					
16. AOB	242	7.89	2.41	-.31***	.39***	-.20***	.30***	.17***	.17***	.52***	.42***	.57***	.64***	-.35***	.64***	.57***	.63***	.68***	-				
17. CD	242	63.80	21.78	.39***	-.67***	.22***	-.28***	-.17***	-.13*	-.65***	-.43***	-.39***	-.63***	-.39***	-.35***	-.30***	-.57***	-.60***	-.49***	-			
18. IED	242	38.35	14.84	.43***	-.62***	.22***	-.30***	-.16***	-.12	-.66***	-.46***	-.42***	-.68***	-.39***	-.39***	-.36***	-.64***	-.67***	-.54***	.89***	-		
19. ODD	242	40.83	19.52	.40***	-.63***	.28***	-.36***	-.19***	-.16*	-.67***	-.51***	-.39***	-.74***	-.40***	-.40***	-.35***	-.66***	-.69***	-.55***	.81***	.86***	-	

*Note.* VA = Violence Behavior; ES = extroversion; AS = agreeableness; CS = conscientiousness; NS = neuroticism; OS = openness; ATL = attitude toward law, court, police; TLV = tolerance for law violation; ICO = identification with criminal others; MJ = moral justification; EL = euphemistic language; AC = advantageous comparison; DR = displacement of responsibility; DOR = diffusion of responsibility; DC = distorting consequences; DH = dehumanization; AOB = attribution of blame; CD = conduct disorder; IED = intermittent explosive disorder; ODD = oppositional defiant disorder.

Table showed that extroversion personality trait was negatively associated with agreeableness ( $r = -39.$ ,  $p < .001$ ), neuroticism, tolerance for law violation, identification with criminal others, moral justification, euphemistic language, advantageous comparison, displacement of responsibility, diffusion of responsibility, distorting consequences, dehumanization, attribution of blame and positively associated with only conscientiousness, conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder.

Agreeableness was negatively associated with only conscientiousness, conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder while positively associated with neuroticism, tolerance for law violation, identification with criminal others, moral justification, euphemistic language, advantageous comparison, displacement of responsibility, diffusion of responsibility, distorting consequences, dehumanization, attribution of blame characteristics individuals. Conscientiousness was negatively associated with neuroticism, openness to experience, tolerance for law violation, euphemistic language, advantageous comparison, displacement of responsibility, diffusion of responsibility, distorting consequences, dehumanization, attribution of blame and positively associated with only conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. Neuroticism was negatively associated with only conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder while positively associated with tolerance for law violation, identification with criminal others, moral justification, euphemistic language, advantageous comparison, displacement of responsibility, distorting consequences, dehumanization, attribution of blame characteristics individuals. Openness to experience was positively associated with only moral justification, displacement of responsibility, dehumanization, attribution of blame and reverse correlated with conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder.

Attitude toward law was positively associated with tolerance for law violation, identification with criminal others, moral justification, euphemistic language, advantageous comparison, displacement of responsibility, diffusion of responsibility, distorting consequences, dehumanization, attribution of blame while negatively associated with conduct disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. Tolerance for law association was also positively associated with identification with criminal others, moral justification, euphemistic language, advantageous comparison, displacement of responsibility, diffusion of responsibility, distorting consequences, dehumanization, attribution of blame while negatively associated with conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. Identification with criminal others was positively correlated with moral justification, euphemistic language, advantageous comparison, displacement of responsibility, diffusion of responsibility, distorting consequences, dehumanization, attribution of blame while negatively associated with conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder.

Moral justification was positively correlated with euphemistic language, advantageous comparison, displacement of responsibility, diffusion of responsibility, distorting consequences, dehumanization, attribution of blame while negatively associated with conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. Euphemistic language was positively correlated with advantageous comparison, displacement of responsibility, diffusion of responsibility, distorting consequences, dehumanization, attribution of blame while negatively associated with conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. Adventitious comparison was positively correlated with displacement of responsibility, diffusion of responsibility, distorting consequences, dehumanization, while negatively associated with attribution of blame, conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional

defiant disorder. Displacement of responsibility was positively correlated with diffusion of responsibility, distorting consequences, dehumanization, attribution of blame while negatively associated with conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. Diffusion of responsibility was positively correlated with distorting consequences, dehumanization, attribution of blame while negatively associated with conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder, and oppositional defiant disorder. Distorting consequences was positively correlated with dehumanization, attribution of blame while negatively associated with conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. Dehumanization was positively associated with attribution of blame while negatively associated with conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. Attribution of blame was negatively associated with conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder.

Conduct disorder was positively associated with intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. Intermittent explosive disorder was also positively associated with oppositional defiant disorder personality characteristics individuals.

**Table 4**

*Relationship between Personality Traits, Criminal Sentiments, Moral Disengagement and Deviant Behavior in Young Adults (N = 242)*

<i>Variable</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Gender	242	1.50	.50	-									
2. Criminal Activity	242	1.18	.38	-.31***	-								
3. Extroversion	242	6.81	2.45	-.28***	.25***	-							
4- Agreeableness	242	6.68	2.40	.26***	-.44***	-.39***	-						
5- Conscientiousness	242	6.45	2.71	-1.14*	.21***	.19**	-.17**	-					
6- Neuroticism	242	5.40	2.37	.47***	-.32***	-.37***	.25***	-.18**	-				
7- Openness	242	6.57	2.66	.01	-.18**	-.09	.11	-.14*	-.02	-			
8. Criminal Sentiments	242	113.97	15.43	.33***	-.31***	-.20***	.40***	-.15*	.18**	.07	-		
9. Moral Disengagement	242	67.52	16.40	.45***	-.49***	-.37***	.51***	-.21***	.32***	.16**	.64***	-	
10. Deviant Behavior	242	142.99	53.31	-.40***	.57***	.43***	-.68***	.26***	-.33***	-.18**	-.54***	-.72***	-

*Note.* \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$ .

Table show Gender was significant negatively associated with criminal activity ( $r = -.31, p < .001$ ), extroversion ( $r = -.28, p < .001$ ), conscientiousness ( $r = -.14, p < .05$ ) and deviant behavior ( $r = -.40, p < .001$ ) while positively associated with agreeableness ( $r = .26, p < .001$ ), neuroticism ( $r = .47, p < .001$ ), criminal sentiment ( $r = .33, p < .001$ ) and moral disengagement ( $r = .45, p < .001$ ). Criminal activity was significant negatively correlated with agreeableness ( $r = -.44, p < .001$ ), neuroticism ( $r = -.32, p < .001$ ), openness ( $r = -.18, p < .01$ ), criminal sentiment ( $r = -.31, p < .001$ ) and moral disengagement ( $r = -.49, p < .001$ ) while positively associated with extroversion ( $r = .25, p < .001$ ), conscientiousness ( $r = .21, p < .001$ ) and deviant behavior ( $r = .57, p < .001$ ). Extroversion was significant positively associated with conscientiousness ( $r = .19, p < .01$ ) and deviant behavior ( $r = .43, p < .001$ ) while negatively associate with agreeableness ( $r = -.39, p < .001$ ), neuroticism ( $r = -.37, p < .001$ ), criminal sentiments ( $r = -.20, p < .001$ ) and moral disengagement ( $r = -.37, p < .001$ ). Agreeableness was significant negatively associated with conscientiousness ( $r = -.17, p < .01$ ) and deviant behavior ( $r = -.68, p < .001$ ) while positively associate with neuroticism ( $r = .25, p < .001$ ), criminal sentiments ( $r = .40, p < .001$ ) and moral disengagement ( $r = .51, p < .001$ ). Conscientiousness was significant negatively associated with neuroticism ( $r = -.18, p < .01$ ), openness ( $r = -.14, p < .05$ ), criminal sentiments ( $r = -.15, p < .05$ ) and moral disengagement ( $r = -.21, p < .001$ ) while positively associate with deviant behavior ( $r = .26, p < .001$ ). Neuroticism was significant positively associated with criminal sentiments ( $r = .18, p < .01$ ) and moral disengagement ( $r = .32, p < .001$ ) while negatively associate with deviant behavior ( $r = -.33, p < .001$ ). Openness was significantly positively corelated with moral disengagement ( $r = .16, p < .001$ ) while significantly negatively associated with deviant behavior ( $r = -.18, p < .001$ ). Criminal sentiment was significant positively associated with moral

disengagement ( $r = .64, p < .001$ ) and negatively correlated with deviant behavior ( $r = -.54, p < .001$ ). Last moral disengagement was also significant negative associate with deviant behavior ( $r = -.72, p < .001$ ).

**Table 5**

*Multiple Hierarchical Linear Regression for Predicting Conduct Disorder, Intermittent Explosive Disorder and Oppositional Defiant Disorder (N = 242)*

Variables	Conduct Disorder						Intermittent Explosive Disorder								
	B	95%CI		SEB	B	$R^2$	$\Delta R^2$	B	95%CI		SEB	$\beta$	$R^2$	$\Delta R^2$	
		LL	UL						LL	UL					
Step 1						.50	.50						.46	.46	
Constant	97.59***	83.23	111.86	7.26				Constant	54.67***	44.52	64.82	5.15			
ES	.99	.06	1.91	.47	.11*			ES	1.03	.37	1.69	.33	.17**		
AS	-5.36	-6.27	-4.45	.46	-.59***			AS	-3.11	-3.76	-2.47	.32	-.50***		
CS	.58	-.17	1.33	.38	.07			CS	.55	.02	1.09	.27	.10*		
NS	-.79	-1.66	.16	.46	-.08			NS	-.60	-1.24	.04	.32	-.09		
OS	-.66	-1.42	.09	.38	-.08			OS	-.44	-.98	.09	.27	-.07		
Step 2						.59	.09	Step 2						.57	.11
ATLCP	.00	-.22	.23	.11	.00			ATLCP	.04	-.11	.20	.08	.02		
TFLV	-1.21	-1.59	-.84	.19	-.40***			TFLV	-.84	-1.10	-.58	.13	-.41***		
IWCO	.19	-.38	.78	.29	.03			IWCO	-.07	-.48	.32	.20	-.02		
Step 3						.64	.05	Step 3						.67	.10
MJ	-1.12	-2.15	-.09	.52	-.13*			MJ	-.65	-1.32	.01	.34	-.09		
EL	-.59	-1.79	.61	.61	-.07			EL	-.60	-1.39	.17	.39	-.11		
AC	-1.12	-2.58	.34	.74	-.14			AC	-.94	-1.90	.01	.48	-.18		
DOR	1.11	.00	2.23	.56	.12			DOR	.99	.26	1.72	.37	.15**		
DISOR	.85	-.20	1.91	.53	.08			DISOR	.27	-.41	.97	.35	.04		
DC	-.44	-1.57	.68	.57	-.05			DC	-.70	-1.43	.03	.37	-.12		
DEHUM	-.99	-2.07	.07	.54	-.13			DEHUM	-1.18	-1.88	-.48	.35	-.23**		
AOB	-.17	-1.35	1.00	.59	-.01			AOB	-.02	-.79	.74	.39	-.00		

*Note.* CI = confidence interval; LL = lower limit; UL = upper limit ES = extroversion; AS = agreeableness; CS = conscientiousness; NS = neuroticism; OS = openness; ATLCP = attitude toward law, court, police; TFLV = tolerance for law violation; IWCO = identification with criminal others; MJ = moral justification; EL = euphemistic language; AC = advantageous comparison; DOR = displacement of responsibility; DISOR = diffusion of responsibility; DC = distorting consequences; DEHUM = dehumanization; AOB = attribution of blame. \*p < .05. \*\*p < .01. \*\*\*p < .001.

Variables	Oppositional Defiant Disorder							
	B	95%CI		SEB	B	$R^2$	$\Delta R^2$	
		LL	UL					
<b>Step 1</b>							.48	.48
Constant	71.69***	58.70	84.68	6.59				
ES	.75	-.08	1.509	.42	.09			
AS	-4.18	-5.01	-3.36	.41	-.51***			
CS	.85	.17	1.54	.34	.11*			
NS	-1.49	-2.32	.66	.42	-.18***			
OS	-.83	-1.52	-.15	.34	-.11*			
<b>Step 2</b>							.60	.12
ATLCP	-.03	-.23	.17	.10	-.01			
TFLV	-.93	-1.26	-.59	.17	-.34***			
IWCO	-.413	-.92	.09	.26	-.08			
<b>Step 3</b>							.72	.12
MJ	-.19	-.93	.70	.41	-.01			
EL	-1.93	-2.89	-.97	.48	-.27***			
AC	-1.06	-2.23	.10	.59	-.15			
DOR	1.31	.42	2.20	.45	.15**			
DISOR	.31	-.52	1.16	.42	.03			
DC	-.92	-1.82	-.03	.45	-.12*			
DEHUM	-1.31	-2.17	-.46	.43	-.19**			
AOB	-.00	-.94	.93	.47	-.00			

*Note.* CI = confidence interval; LL = lower limit; UL = upper limit ES = extroversion; AS = agreeableness; CS = conscientiousness; NS = neuroticism; OS = openness; ATLCP = attitude toward law, court, police; TFLV = tolerance for law violation; IWCO = identification with criminal others; MJ = moral justification; EL = euphemistic language; AC = advantageous comparison; DOR = displacement of responsibility; DISOR = diffusion of responsibility; DC = distorting consequences; DEHUM = dehumanization; AOB = attribution of blame. \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$

Multiple hierarchical regression analysis performed to identify the significant predictors of conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder in young adults. The value of  $R^2$  showed personality traits (extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experiences) explained 50% variance in conduct disorder ( $F(16, 225) = 25.53, p < .001$ ). Extroversion indicated significant contribution in conduct disorder of young adults and positively predicted conduct disorder ( $\beta = .11, p < .05$ ).

Agreeableness also showed significant contribution in conduct disorder of young adults and negatively predict conduct disorder ( $\beta = -.59, p < .001$ ), whereas conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experiences indicated non-significant prediction on conduct disorder in young adults. Criminal sentiments subscale explained total 9% variance in conduct disorder ( $F(16, 225) = 25.53, p < .001$ ). Tolerance for law violent was a negative significant predictor ( $\beta = -.40, p < .001$ ), whereas attitude toward law, court, police ( $\beta = .00, p > .05$ ) and identification with criminal other ( $\beta = .03, p > .05$ ) were not predict conduct disorder. Moral disengagement subscales explained total 5% variance in conduct disorder ( $F(16, 225) = 25.53, p < .001$ ). Moral justification indicated significant negatively predict conduct disorder ( $\beta = -.13, p < .05$ ), whereas euphemistic language, advantageous comparison, displacement of responsibility, diffusion of responsibility, distorting consequences, dehumanization and attribution of blame were not predicting conduct disorder in young adults.

The value of  $R^2$  showed personality traits (extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experiences) explained 46% variance in intermittent explosive disorder ( $F(16, 225) = 29.10, p < .001$ ). Extroversion showed significant contribution in intermittent explosive disorder of young adults and positively predict intermittent explosive disorder ( $\beta = .17, p < .01$ ). Agreeableness also showed significant contribution in

intermittent explosive disorder of young adults and negatively predict intermittent explosive disorder ( $\beta = -.50, p < .001$ ). Conscientiousness was a positive significant predictor of intermittent explosive disorder ( $\beta = .10, p < .05$ ), whereas neuroticism and openness to experiences showed non-significant prediction on conduct disorder in young adults. Criminal sentiments subscale explained total 11% variance in intermittent explosive disorder ( $F(16, 225) = 29.10, p < .001$ ). Tolerance for law violent was a negative significant predictor of intermittent explosive disorder ( $\beta = -.41, p < .001$ ), whereas attitude toward law, court, and police ( $\beta = .02, p > .05$ ) and identification with criminal other ( $\beta = -.02, p > .05$ ) were not predict conduct disorder. Moral disengagement subscales explained total 10% variance in intermittent explosive disorder ( $F(16, 225) = 29.10, p < .001$ ). Displacement of responsibility indicated significant positively predict intermittent explosive disorder ( $\beta = .15, p < .01$ ). Dehumanization also showed significant contribution in intermittent explosive disorder of young adults and negatively predict intermittent explosive disorder ( $\beta = -.23, p < .01$ ), whereas moral justification, euphemistic language, advantageous comparison, diffusion of responsibility, distorting consequences and attribution of blame were not predicting conduct disorder in young adults.

The value of  $R^2$  showed personality traits (extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experiences) explained 48% variance in oppositional defiant disorder ( $F(16, 225) = 36.09, p < .001$ ). Agreeableness ( $\beta = -.51, p < .001$ ) and neuroticism ( $\beta = -.18, p < .001$ ) showed significant contribution in oppositional defiant disorder of young adults and negatively predict oppositional defiant disorder. Conscientiousness indicated significant contribution in oppositional defiant disorder of young adults and positively predict oppositional defiant disorder ( $\beta = .11, p < .05$ ), whereas extroversion and openness to experiences indicated non-significant prediction on oppositional defiant disorder in young adults. Criminal

sentiments subscale explained total 12% variance in oppositional defiant disorder ( $F(16, 225) = 36.09, p < .001$ ). Tolerance for law violent was a negative significant predictor of oppositional defiant disorder ( $\beta = -.34, p < .001$ ), whereas attitude toward law, court, police ( $\beta = -.01, p > .05$ ) and identification with criminal other ( $\beta = -.08, p > .05$ ) were not predict conduct disorder. Moral disengagement subscales explained total 12% variance in oppositional defiant disorder ( $F(16, 225) = 36.09, p < .001$ ). Euphemistic language ( $\beta = -.27, p < .001$ ), distorting consequences ( $\beta = -.12, p < .05$ ) and dehumanization ( $\beta = -.19, p < .01$ ) showed significant contribution in oppositional defiant disorder of young adults and negatively predict oppositional defiant disorder and displacement of responsibility indicated significant positively predict oppositional defiant disorder ( $\beta = .15, p < .01$ ), whereas moral justification, advantageous comparison, diffusion of responsibility and attribution of blame were not predicting conduct disorder in young adults.

**Table 6**

*Independent Samples t-test Determining Differences in Personality Traits, Criminal Sentiments, Moral Disengagement and Deviant Behavior in young adults (N = 242)*

	Male		Female		<i>t</i> (240)	<i>p</i>	Cohen' <i>d</i>
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>			
ES	7.52	2.20	6.11	2.50	4.63	.000	.59
AS	6.04	2.45	7.31	2.17	-4.23	.000	.54
CS	6.85	2.70	6.04	2.68	2.31	.021	.30
NS	4.28	2.20	6.52	1.97	-8.34	.000	1.07
OS	6.52	2.71	6.61	2.61	-.28	.772	.03
Criminal Sentiments	108.81	16.96	119.12	11.70	-5.50	.000	.70
ATLCP	65.81	8.82	68.78	7.82	-2.76	.006	.35
TFLV	25.96	8.36	30.66	4.82	-5.35	.000	.68
IWCO	17.03	4.20	19.66	3.80	-5.11	.000	.65
Moral Disengagement	60.14	16.40	74.90	12.70	-7.82	.000	1.00
MJ	6.35	2.10	7.64	2.08	-4.78	.000	.61
EL	7.55	2.80	10.19	1.93	-8.51	.000	1.09
AC	7.97	3.01	10.53	1.95	-7.83	.000	1.00
DOR	7.76	2.13	9.07	2.35	-4.54	.000	.58

DISOR	7.81	2.10	8.79	2.17	-3.54	.000	.45
DC	8.02	2.63	9.95	2.13	-6.24	.000	.80
DEHUM	7.64	3.00	9.94	2.34	-6.62	.000	.85
AOB	7.01	2.46	8.77	2.01	-6.08	.000	.78
Deviant Behavior	164.31	61.72	121.67	31.35	6.77	.000	.87
CD	70.85	24.80	56.76	15.41	5.31	.000	.68
IED	43.95	17.26	32.75	8.99	6.32	.000	.81
ODD	49.50	22.35	32.16	10.68	7.69	.000	.98

Note. ES = extroversion; AS = agreeableness; CS = conscientiousness; NS = neuroticism; OS = openness;

ATLCP = attitude toward law, court, police; TFLV = tolerance for law violation; IWCO = identification with criminal others; MJ = moral justification; EL = euphemistic language; AC = advantageous comparison; DOR = displacement of responsibility; DISOR = diffusion of responsibility; DC = distorting consequences; DEHUM = dehumanization; AOB = attribution of blame; CD = conduct disorder; IED = intermittent explosive disorder; ODD = oppositional defiant disorder. \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$ .

Independent sample t-test used to determine gender differences in personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement and deviant behavior along with subscales in young adults. The results of t-test described that there were significant differences between male and female in extroversion ( $t = 4.63, p < .01$ ) and agreeableness ( $t = -4.23, p < .01$ ). Male are higher on extrovert ( $M = 7.52, SD = 2.20$ ) than female ( $M = 6.11, SD = 2.50$ ). Female are higher on agreeableness ( $M = 7.31, SD = 2.17$ ) than male ( $M = 6.04, SD = 2.45$ ). The findings suggested that there were significant gender differences in young adults' conscientiousness ( $t = 2.31, p < .05$ ). Female are higher in neuroticism ( $M = 6.52, SD = 1.97$ ) than male ( $M = 4.28, SD = 2.20$ ). It was explained that there was non-significant gender difference between male and female in openness to experiences ( $t = -.28, p > .05$ ). There was significant gender difference in criminal sentiments ( $t = -5.50, p < .01$ ) along with its subscale. Female have higher attitude toward law, court and police ( $M = 68.78, SD = 7.82$ ) than male ( $M = 65.81, SD = 8.82$ ). Female also have higher tolerance for law violation ( $M = 30.66, SD = 4.82$ ) than male ( $M = 25.96, SD = 8.36$ ). Female have higher on identification with criminal others ( $M = 19.66, SD = 3.80$ ) than male ( $M = 17.03, SD = 4.20$ ).

The results of t-test also described that there were significant differences between male and female in moral disengagement ( $t = -7.82, p > .01$ ) and its scale. Female were higher on moral justification, euphemistic language, advantageous comparison, displacement of responsibility, diffusion of responsibility, distorting consequences, dehumanization and attribution of blame than male. There was also significant difference between male and female in deviant behavior ( $t = 6.77, p > .01$ ) along with subscale. Male were higher on conduct disorder ( $M = 70.85, SD = 24.80$ ) than female ( $M = 56.76, SD = 15.41$ ). Male were higher on intermittent explosive disorder ( $M = 43.95, SD = 17.26$ ) than female ( $M = 32.75, SD = 8.99$ ). Male were higher on oppositional defiant disorder ( $M = 49.50, SD = 22.35$ ) than female ( $M = 32.16, SD = 10.68$ ).

**Table 7**

*Independent Samples t-test Determining Differences in Personality Traits, Criminal Sentiments, Moral Disengagement and Deviant Behavior in young adults (N = 242)*

	Undergraduate		Graduate		<i>t</i> (240)	<i>p</i>	Cohen's <i>d</i>
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>			
ES	6.27	2.25	7.86	2.49	-5.03	.000	.67
AS	7.04	2.08	5.98	2.80	3.02	.003	.42
CS	6.42	2.63	6.50	2.88	-.22	.824	.02
NS	5.78	2.35	4.67	2.24	3.53	.000	.48
OS	6.68	2.58	6.34	2.80	.90	.365	.12
Criminal Sentiments	114.67	14.61	112.62	16.91	.93	.351	.12
ATLCP	66.69	8.69	68.45	7.89	-1.54	.125	.21
TFLV	29.31	6.24	26.40	8.48	2.75	.007	.39
IWCO	18.66	3.98	17.57	4.58	1.51	.132	.25
Moral Disengagement	69.66	14.12	63.43	19.50	2.75	.011	.36
MJ	7.21	1.99	6.50	2.48	1.97	.050	.31
EL	9.25	2.45	8.13	3.11	2.86	.005	.40
AC	9.69	2.54	8.40	3.19	3.18	.002	.44
DOR	8.48	2.28	8.28	2.46	.61	.539	.08
DISOR	8.35	2.20	8.20	2.16	.51	.605	.06
DC	9.19	2.33	8.59	2.96	1.61	.109	.22
DEHUM	9.22	2.64	7.97	3.26	2.99	.003	.42

AOB	8.23	2.21	7.24	2.63	2.94	.004	.43
Deviant Behavior	132.11	39.79	163.83	68.07	-3.90	.000	.56
CD	59.83	17.24	71.42	27.05	-3.54	.000	.51
IED	35.59	11.75	43.62	18.39	-3.61	.000	.52
ODD	36.68	14.83	48.78	24.47	-4.12	.000	.59

*Note.* ES = extroversion; AS = agreeableness; CS = conscientiousness; NS = neuroticism; OS = openness; ATLCP = attitude toward law, court, police; TFLV = tolerance for law violation; IWCO = identification with criminal others; MJ = moral justification; EL = euphemistic language; AC = advantageous comparison; DOR = displacement of responsibility; DISOR = diffusion of responsibility; DC = distorting consequences; DEHUM = dehumanization; AOB = attribution of blame; CD = conduct disorder; IED = intermittent explosive disorder; ODD = oppositional defiant disorder. \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$ .

Independent sample t-test used to determine educational differences in personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement and deviant behavior along with subscales in young adults. The results of t-test described that there were significant differences between undergraduate and graduate in extroversion ( $t = -5.03, p < .01$ ) and agreeableness ( $t = 3.02, p < .01$ ). Graduate is higher on extrovert ( $M = 7.86, SD = 2.49$ ) than undergraduate ( $M = 6.27, SD = 2.25$ ). Undergraduate are higher on agreeableness ( $M = 7.04, SD = 2.08$ ) than graduate ( $M = 5.98, SD = 2.80$ ). Undergraduate are higher in neuroticism ( $M = 5.78, SD = 2.35$ ) than graduate ( $M = 4.67, SD = 2.24$ ). There was significant educational difference in tolerance for law violation ( $t = 2.75, p < .01$ ). Undergraduate have higher tolerance for law violation ( $M = 29.31, SD = 6.24$ ) than graduate ( $M = 26.40, SD = 8.48$ ).

The results of t-test also described that there were significant differences between undergraduate and graduate in moral disengagement ( $t = 2.75, p > .01$ ) and its scale. Undergraduate were higher on euphemistic language ( $M = 9.25, SD = 2.54$ ) than graduate ( $M = 8.40, SD = 3.19$ ). Undergraduate were higher on advantageous comparison ( $M = 9.69, SD = 2.54$ ) than graduate ( $M = 8.40, SD = 3.19$ ). Undergraduate were higher on dehumanization ( $M = 9.22, SD = 2.64$ ) than graduate ( $M = 7.97, SD = 3.26$ ). Undergraduate were higher on attribution of

blame ( $M= 8.23$ ,  $SD= 2.21$ ) than graduate ( $M= 7.24$ ,  $SD= 2.63$ ). There was also significant difference between undergraduate and graduate in deviant behavior ( $t = -3.90$ ,  $p > .01$ ) along with subscale. Graduate were higher on conduct disorder ( $M= 71.42$ ,  $SD= 27.05$ ) than undergraduate ( $M= 59.83$ ,  $SD= 17.24$ ). Graduate were higher on intermittent explosive disorder ( $M= 43.62$ ,  $SD= 18.39$ ) than undergraduate ( $M= 35.59$ ,  $SD= 11.75$ ). Graduate were higher on oppositional defiant disorder ( $M= 48.78$ ,  $SD= 24.47$ ) than undergraduate ( $M= 36.68$ ,  $SD= 14.83$ ).

**Table 8**

*Independent Samples t-test Determining Differences in Personality Traits, Criminal Sentiments, Moral Disengagement and Deviant Behavior in young adults (N = 242)*

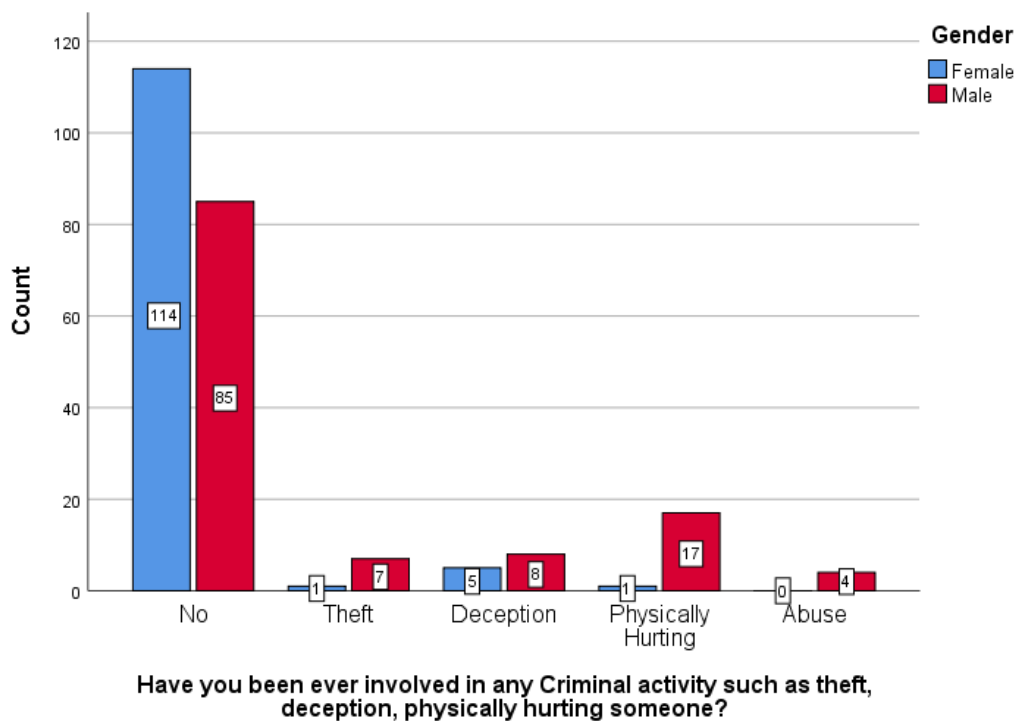
	No		Yes		<i>t</i> (240)	<i>P</i>	Cohen' <i>d</i>
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>			
Deviant Behavior	128.85	38.58	208.44	62.98	-7.97	.000	1.52
CD	58.57	17.07	88.04	24.84	-7.41	.000	1.38
IED	34.60	11.06	55.69	17.66	-7.52	.000	1.43
ODD	35.67	14.43	64.69	22.27	-8.18	.000	1.54

*Note.* CD = conduct disorder; IED = intermittent explosive disorder; ODD = oppositional defiant disorder. \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$ .

Independent sample t-test used to determine any violent act? (No and yes) differences in deviant behavior along with subscales in young adults. The results of t-test described that there were significant differences between no and yes in conduct disorder ( $t = -7.41$ ,  $p < .01$ ), intermittent explosive disorder ( $t = -7.52$ ,  $p < .01$ ) and oppositional defiant disorder ( $t = -8.18$ ,  $p < .01$ ). Young adults who said yes for any violent act have higher conduct disorder ( $M = 88.04$ ,  $SD = 24.84$ ) than who said no ( $M = 58.57$ ,  $SD = 17.07$ ). Young adults who said yes for any

violent act have higher intermittent explosive disorder ( $M = 55.69, SD = 17.66$ ) than who said no ( $M = 34.60, SD = 11.06$ ). Young adults who said yes for any violent act have higher oppositional defiant disorder ( $M = 64.69, SD = 22.27$ ) than who said no ( $M = 35.67, SD = 14.43$ ).

### Graph



This graph explains that there were 199 young adults who have not done any violent act in their lives and 43 young adults said that they have performed some mild violent act which includes theft which have 1 female and 7 male, deception which have 5 female and 8 males, physically hurting which have 1 female and 17 male and in the last there was abuse which have only 4 males.

**Table 9**

*One-Way Analysis of Variance for Determining Monthly Income Differences in Personality Traits, Criminal Sentiments, Moral Disengagement and Deviant Behavior in Young Adults (df=2, 239)*

	Below 50,000		51,000 to 100,000		Above 101,000		<i>F</i> (2,239)	$\eta^2$
	(n=26)		(n=102)		(n=114)			
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>		
ES	6.30	2.27	6.61	2.40	7.11	2.52	1.73	.01
AS	7.07	2.09	7.06	2.30	6.24	2.49	3.62*	.03
CS	6.65	2.48	6.56	2.57	6.29	2.90	.34	.00
NS	6.34	1.85	5.53	2.29	5.07	2.49	3.40*	.02
OS	7.03	2.56	6.31	2.67	6.69	2.66	.99	.00
Criminal Sentiments	112.76	19.81	117.25	13.90	111.30	15.20	4.19*	.03
ATLCP	65.57	11.54	68.21	8.52	66.87	7.51	1.28	.01
TFLV	29.00	5.90	30.00	6.50	26.64	7.73	6.23**	.05
IWCO	18.19	4.68	19.02	4.03	17.78	4.20	2.41	.02
Moral Disengagement	66.50	15.76	69.88	14.48	65.65	17.95	1.85	.01
MJ	7.42	2.43	7.13	2.18	6.78	2.12	1.26	.01
EL	8.88	2.56	9.21	2.46	8.56	2.98	1.54	.01
AC	9.19	2.65	9.70	2.49	8.86	3.12	2.36	.01
DOR	7.84	2.60	8.50	2.20	8.47	2.40	.87	.00
DISOR	7.76	2.43	8.51	2.17	8.23	2.13	1.32	.01
DC	8.84	2.57	9.44	2.26	8.61	2.79	2.85	.02

DEHUM	8.19	2.74	9.27	2.57	8.50	3.21	2.52	.02
AOB	8.34	2.31	8.08	2.23	7.62	2.57	1.51	.01
Deviant Behavior	132.11	36.38	130.90	45.24	156.29	60.02	7.05**	.05
CD	56.96	14.56	59.18	19.35	69.50	23.81	7.91***	.06
IED	36.19	11.25	34.91	12.49	41.92	16.66	6.60**	.05
ODD	38.96	14.17	36.80	16.95	44.86	21.90	4.87**	.04

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*Note.* ES = extroversion; AS = agreeableness; CS = conscientiousness; NS = neuroticism; OS = openness; ATLCP = attitude toward law, court, police; TFLV = tolerance for law violation; IWCO = identification with criminal others; MJ = moral justification; EL = euphemistic language; AC = advantageous comparison; DOR = displacement of responsibility; DISOR = diffusion of responsibility; DC = distorting consequences; DEHUM = dehumanization; AOB = attribution of blame; CD = conduct disorder; IED = intermittent explosive disorder; ODD = oppositional defiant disorder. \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$ .

**Table 10***Post hoc Analysis for Monthly Income (N=242)*

Variables	Monthly Income		Mean			95% CI	
			Difference	SE	p	LL	LL
AS	Below 50,000	51,000 to 101,000	.00	.52	1.00	-1.24	1.26
		Above 101,000	.83	.51	.292	-.41	2.07
	51,000 to 100,000	Above 101,000	.82	.32	.035	.04	-1.60
NS	Below 50,000	51,000 to 100,000	.80	.51	.317	-.43	2.04
		Above 101,000	1.27	.51	.039	.04	2.50
	51,000 to 100,000	Above 101,000	.46	.32	.373	-.30	1.23
CS	Below 50,000	51,000 to 100,000	-4.48	3.34	.450	-12.53	3.55
		Above 101,000	1.46	3.31	.960	-6.49	9.42
	51,000 to 100,000	Above 101,000	5.94	2.07	.014	.95	10.93
TFLV	Below 50,000	51,000 to 100,000	-1.00	1.55	.886	-4.73	2.71
		Above 101,000	2.35	1.53	.333	-1.33	6.03
	51,000 to 100,000	Above 101,000	3.36	.96	.002	1.04	5.67
DB	Below 50,000	51,000 to 100,000	1.21	11.43	.999	-26.26	28.69
		Above 101,000	-24.18	11.30	.097	-51.36	3.00
	51,000 to 100,000	Above 101,000	-25.39	7.09	.001	-42.44	-8.34
CD	Below 50,000	51,000 to 100,000	-2.22	4.65	.950	-13.41	8.96
		Above 101,000	-12.54	4.60	.021	-23.61	-1.47
	51,000 to 100,000	Above 101,000	-10.32	2.88	.001	-17.26	-3.38
IED	Below 50,000	51,000 to 100,000	1.28	3.18	.970	-6.38	8.94
		Above 101,000	-5.72	3.15	.196	-13.30	1.85
	51,000 to 100,000	Above 101,000	-7.00	1.97	.001	-11.76	-2.25
ODD	Below 50,000	51,000 to 100,000	2.15	4.22	.940	-7.99	12.30
		Above 101,000	-5.90	4.17	.403	-15.93	4.13
	51,000 to 100,000	Above 101,000	-8.06	2.61	.007	-14.36	-1.76

*Note.* AS = Agreeableness; NS = neuroticism; CS = Criminal Sentiments TFLV = tolerance for law violation; DB = Deviant Behavior; CD = conduct disorder; IED = intermittent explosive disorder; ODD = oppositional defiant disorder.  
\*p < .05. \*\*p < .01. \*\*\*p < .001.

One-way ANOVA was run to find mean difference on personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement and deviant behavior between three different monthly income group. ANOVA was significant for agreeableness, neuroticism, conscientiousness, tolerance for

law violation, deviant behavior, conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. Post hoc test indicated that below 50,000 monthly incomes has significant mean difference in comparison to other two group. Below 50,000 have more agreeableness than 51,000 to 100,000 and above 101,000. Agreeableness was higher in 51,000 to 100,000 than above 101,000. Below 50,000 have higher neuroticism in compare to 51,000 to 100,000 and above 101,000. Neuroticism was greater in 51,000 to 100,000 than above 101,000.

Below 50,000 monthly incomes have less conscientiousness than 51,000 to 100,000 but more conscientiousness than above 101,000. Those who have monthly income 51,000 to 100,000 were higher on conscientiousness than above 101,000. Tolerance for law violation was less in below 50,000 than 51,000 to 100,000 and above 101,000. Those who have 51,000 to 100,000 monthly incomes were higher in tolerance for law violation than above 101,000.

Deviant behavior was indicated greater in below 50,000 than 51,000 to 100,000 but less in below 50,000 as compare to above 101,000. Those who have 51,000 to 100,000 monthly incomes have less deviant behavior than above 101,000. Below 50,000 monthly incomes have less conduct disorder than 51,000 to 100,000 and above 101,000. Conduct disorder was less in 51,000 to 100,000 as compare to above 101,000.

Intermittent explosive disorder was indicated higher in below 50,000 as compare to 51,000 to 100,000 but less in below 50,000 than above 101,000. Those who have monthly incomes about 51,000 to 100,000 have less intermittent explosive disorder than above 101,000. Oppositional defiant disorder was indicated greater in below 50,000 than 51,000 to 100,000 but less in below 50,000 as compare to above 101,000. Those who have 51,000 to 100,000 monthly incomes have less oppositional defiant disorder than above 101,000.

**Table 11**

*Direct and Indirect Effect of Personality Traits on Deviant Behavior through Moral Disengagement*  
(*N*=242).

Outcome	Predictors	Deviant Behavior					
		Direct Effect			Indirect Effect		
		B	95% CI		$\beta$	95% CI	
LL	UL		LL	UL			
Moral Disengagement	Extroversion	-2.49***	-3.28	-1.70			
Deviant Behavior	Extroversion	4.09***	2.09	6.09	5.27*	3.30	7.37
	Moral Disengagement						
Deviant Behavior	Moral Disengagement	-2.11***	-2.41	-1.81			
Moral Disengagement	Agreeableness	3.52***	2.78	4.27			
Deviant Behavior	Agreeableness	-9.40***	-11.35	-7.45	-5.74*	-7.51	-4.01
	Moral Disengagement						
Deviant Behavior	Moral Disengagement	-1.62***	-1.91	-1.34			
Moral Disengagement	Conscientiousness	-1.31***	-2.06	-.56			
Deviant Behavior	Conscientiousness	2.24*	.49	4.00	2.97*	1.19	5.05
	Moral Disengagement						
Deviant Behavior	Moral Disengagement	-2.26***	-2.55	-1.96			
Moral Disengagement	Neuroticism	2.21***	1.38	3.04			
Deviant Behavior	Neuroticism	-2.56*	-4.63	-.49	-4.92*	-7.55	-2.62
	Moral Disengagement						
Deviant Behavior	Moral Disengagement	-2.22***	-2.52	-1.92			
Moral Disengagement	Openness	1.02**	.25	1.79			
Deviant Behavior	Openness	-1.40	-3.19	.38	-2.35*	-4.22	-.57
	Moral Disengagement						
Deviant Behavior	Moral Disengagement	-2.30***	-2.59	-2.01			

Note. \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$ .

Mediation analyses performed to identify the mediating role of moral disengagement on the relationship between personality traits (extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, openness) and deviant behavior in young adults. Results showed that there was significant total effect of extroversion on deviant behavior ( $\beta = 4.09, p < .001$ ). Extroversion found to had significant indirect impact on deviant behavior of young adults through moral disengagement ( $\beta = 5.27, p < .05$ ). Moral disengagement partially mediated as there was significant direct effect of extroversion on deviant behavior. Agreeableness found to have a direct significant impact on deviant behavior of young adults ( $\beta = -9.40, p < .001$ ). Agreeableness had significant effect on deviant behavior through moral disengagement ( $\beta = -5.74, p < .05$ ). Having significant direct and indirect effect of agreeableness on deviant behavior through moral disengagement indicated partial mediation in young adults. There was significant total effect of conscientiousness on deviant behavior ( $\beta = 2.24, p < .05$ ). Conscientiousness found to had significant indirect impact on deviant behavior of young adults through moral disengagement ( $\beta = 2.97, p < .05$ ). Moral disengagement partially mediated as there was significant direct effect of conscientiousness on deviant behavior. There was significant direct effect of neuroticism on deviant behavior ( $\beta = -2.56, p < .05$ ). Neuroticism found to had significant indirect impact on deviant behavior of young adults through moral disengagement ( $\beta = -4.92, p < .05$ ). Moral disengagement partially mediated as there was significant direct effect of neuroticism on deviant behavior. Openness to experience found to have a direct non-significant impact on deviant behavior of young adults ( $\beta = -1.40, p > .05$ ). Openness to experience had significant effect on deviant behavior through moral disengagement ( $\beta = -2.35, p < .05$ ). Having significant indirect effect of openness to experience on deviant behavior through moral disengagement indicated full mediation in young adults.

**Figure 1**

*Direct and Indirect Effect of Extroversion on Deviant Behavior through Moral Disengagement*

(N=242)

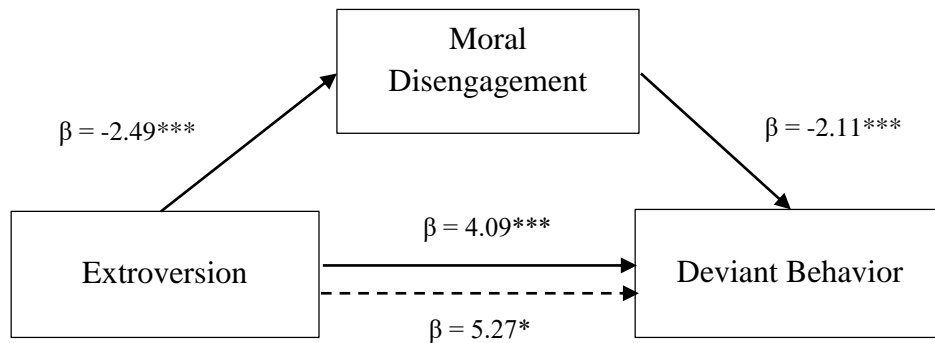


Figure explained the direct effect ( $\beta = 4.09^{***}$ ) and indirect effect ( $\beta = 5.27^*$ ) of extroversion on deviant behavior of young adults through moral disengagement. Moral disengagement positively predicted the effect of extroversion on deviant behavior of young.

**Figure 2**

*Direct and Indirect Effect of Agreeableness on Deviant Behavior through Moral Disengagement*

(N=242)

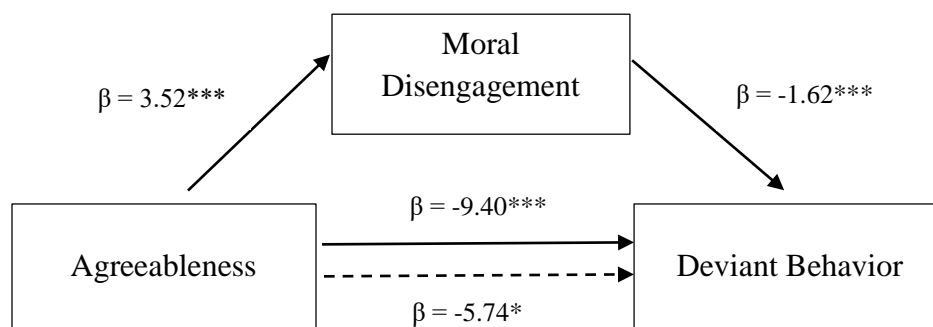


Figure explained the direct effect ( $\beta = -9.40^{***}$ ) and indirect effect ( $\beta = -5.74^*$ ) of agreeableness on deviant behavior of young adults through moral disengagement. Moral disengagement negatively predicted the effect of agreeableness on deviant behavior of young.

**Figure 3**

*Direct and Indirect Effect of Conscientiousness on Deviant Behavior through Moral*

*Disengagement (N=242)*

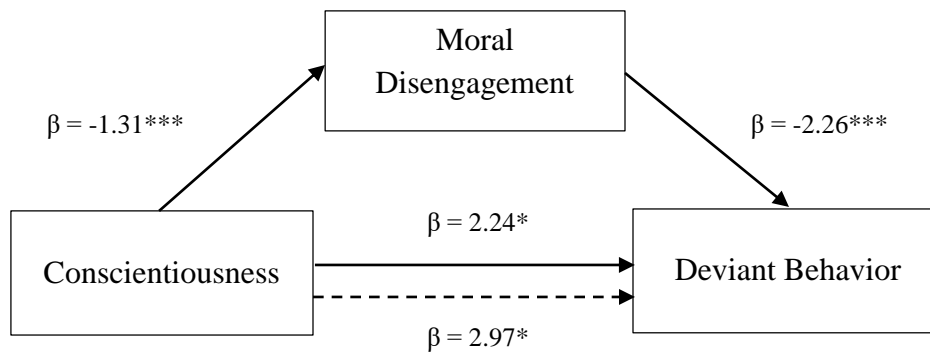


Figure explained the direct effect ( $\beta = 2.24^*$ ) and indirect effect ( $\beta = 2.97^*$ ) of conscientiousness on deviant behavior of young adults through moral disengagement. Moral disengagement positively predicted the effect of conscientiousness on deviant behavior of young

**Figure 4**

*Direct and Indirect Effect of Neuroticism on Deviant Behavior through Moral Disengagement*

*(N=242)*

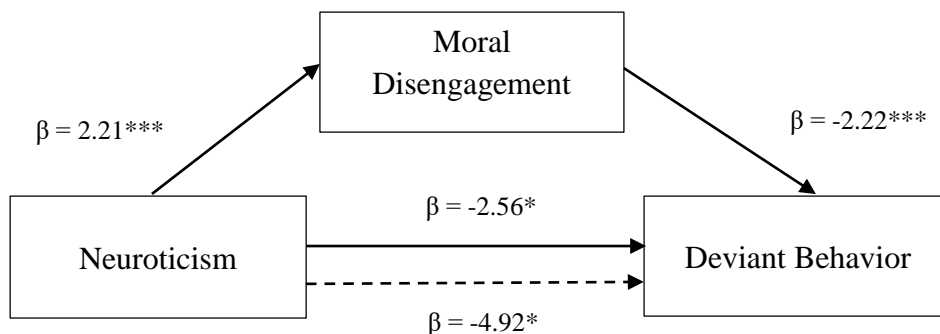


Figure explained the direct effect ( $\beta = -2.56^*$ ) and indirect effect ( $\beta = -4.92^*$ ) of neuroticism on deviant behavior of young adults through moral disengagement. Moral disengagement negatively predicted the effect of neuroticism on deviant behavior of young

### Figure 5

*Direct and Indirect Effect of Openness on Deviant Behavior through Moral Disengagement*

( $N=242$ )

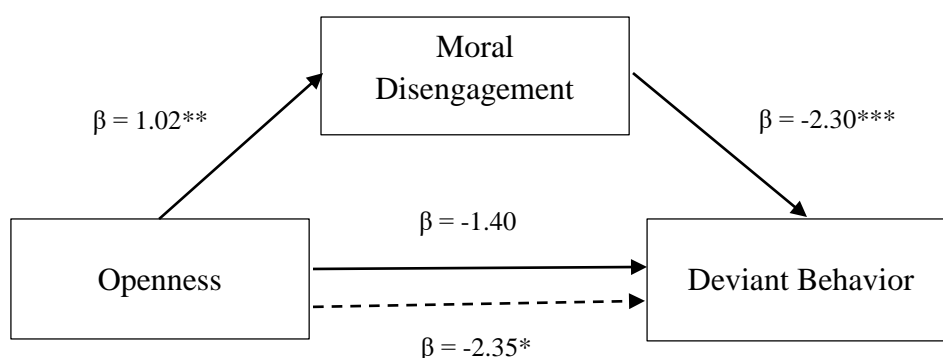


Figure explained the direct effect ( $\beta = -1.40$ ) and indirect effect ( $\beta = -2.35^*$ ) of openness to experience on deviant behavior of young adults through moral disengagement. Moral disengagement negatively predicted the effect of openness to experience on deviant behavior of young indicated full mediation.

In the below table moderating effect of criminal sentiments on the relationship between personality traits and deviant behavior in young adults was accessed.

**Table 12**

*Results from a Regression Analysis Examining the Moderation of the Effect of Criminal Sentiments on Relationship Between Personality Traits and Deviant Behavior (N=242)*

Effect	Estimate	SE	95% CI		p
			LL	UL	
Constant	-91.83	54.32			.092
Extroversion	60.50	7.26	46.19	74.81	.000
Criminal Sentiments	1.61	.46	.69	2.53	.000
Extroversion × Criminal Sentiments	-.47	.06	-.59	-.34	.000
$R^2$	.51				
MSE	1405.43				
F (3, 238)	83.15***				
Constant	595.12	45.17			.000
Agreeableness	-53.35	7.12	-67.38	-39.33	.000
Criminal Sentiments	-3.35	.41	-4.17	-2.52	.000
Agreeableness × Criminal Sentiments	.36	.06	.24	.49	.000
$R^2$	.60				
MSE	1133.95				
F (3, 238)	122.06***				
Constant	73.00	57.47			.205
Conscientiousness	40.07	7.83	24.63	55.51	.000
Criminal Sentiments	.37	.49	-.59	1.34	.442
Conscientiousness × Criminal Sentiments	-.31	.06	-.45	-.18	.000
$R^2$	.38				
MSE	1774.14				
F (3, 238)	49.38***				
Constant	550.63	47.37			.000
Neuroticism	-40.75	8.37	-57.25	-24.25	.000
Criminal Sentiments	-3.39	.43	-4.24	-2.54	.000

Neuroticism × Criminal Sentiments	.32	.07	.17	.46	.000
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	.39				
<i>MSE</i>	1738.23				
<i>F</i> (3, 238)	52.04***				
Constant	355.01	51.78			.000
Openness	-.21	8.12	-16.21	15.78	.978
Criminal Sentiments	-1.69	.45	-2.58	-.79	.000
Openness × Criminal Sentiments	-.02	.07	-.16	.11	.735
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	.31				
<i>MSE</i>	1973.55				
<i>F</i> (3, 238)	36.38***				

*Note.* \**p* <.05. \*\**p* <.01. \*\*\**p* <.001.

A moderation test was run, with perceived personality traits as the predictor, deviant behavior as the dependent, and criminal sentiments as a moderator. There was a significant main effect found between extroversion and deviant behavior ( $b = 60.50$ ,  $CI = [46.19, 74.81]$   $p < .001$ ) and also significant main effect of criminal sentiments on deviant behavior ( $b = 1.61$ ,  $p < .001$ ). There was a significant interaction found by criminal sentiments on extroversion and deviant behavior ( $b = -.47$ ,  $CI = [-.16, .11]$   $p < .001$ ). There was a significant main effect found between agreeableness and deviant behavior ( $b = -53.35$ ,  $CI = [-67.38, -39.33]$   $p < .001$ ) and also significant main effect of criminal sentiments on deviant behavior ( $b = -3.35$ ,  $p < .001$ ). There was a significant interaction found by criminal sentiments on agreeableness and deviant behavior ( $b = .36$ ,  $CI = [.24, .49]$   $p < .001$ ). There was a significant main effect found between conscientiousness and deviant behavior ( $b = 40.07$ ,  $CI = [24.63, 55.51]$   $p < .001$ ) and non-significant main effect of criminal sentiments on deviant behavior ( $b = .37$ ,  $p > .05$ ). There was a significant interaction found by criminal sentiments on conscientiousness and deviant behavior ( $b = -.31$ ,  $CI = [-.45, -.18]$   $p < .001$ ).

There was a significant main effect found between neuroticism and deviant behavior ( $b = -40.75$ ,  $CI = [-57.25, -24.25]$   $p < .001$ ) and also significant main effect of criminal sentiments on deviant behavior ( $b = -3.39$ ,  $p < .001$ ). There was a significant interaction found by criminal sentiments on neuroticism and deviant behavior ( $b = .32$ ,  $CI = [.17, .46]$   $p < .001$ ). There was a non-significant main effect found between openness to experience and deviant behavior ( $b = -.21$ ,  $CI = [-16.21, 15.78]$   $p > .05$ ) and significant main effect of criminal sentiments on deviant behavior ( $b = -1.69$ ,  $p < .001$ ). There was a non-significant interaction found by criminal sentiments on openness to experience and deviant behavior ( $b = -.02$ ,  $CI = [-.16, .11]$   $p > .05$ ).

### **Summary of the Findings**

Following are the major findings of the study:

- The results of reliability analysis showed that all scales personality traits, criminal sentiments scale, moral disengagement scale and deviant behavior scale had good reliability.
- Results showed that there was significant relationship among personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement and deviant behavior in young.
- The results of regression showed that extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness and attitude towards law were significant predictor of deviant behavior in young adults.
- Results showed that male were significantly higher as compare to female in term of personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement and deviant behavior in young.
- Results showed that graduates were significantly higher as compare to undergraduates in term of personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement and deviant behavior in young.

- Results showed that young adults who act any violence were significantly higher as compare to those didn't act any violence in term of personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement and deviant behavior.
- Mediation analysis showed that moral disengagement was significant mediator between personality traits and deviant behavior and also showed partial mediation in extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness and neuroticism but showed full mediation between openness to experiences and deviant behavior in young adults.
- Results also showed that criminal sentiment was a significant moderator between personality traits and deviant behavior and also showed significant interaction between extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness and neuroticism while non-significant interaction between openness to experience and deviant behavior in young adults.

## **Chapter V**

### **Discussion**

The prevalence of deviant behavior among young adults in Pakistan has developed as a rising concern for researchers. Revealing the aspects that contribute to this behavior is critical for the development and implementation of actual protective measures. Numerous studies have discovered the relationship between certain personality traits and deviant behavior, such as impulsivity, sensation seeking, and violence. However, limited research has been directed within the context of Pakistan, and the moderating and mediating factors that may influence this relationship remain unexplored. The current study introduces two important factors that may interact with personality traits to determine deviant behavior in young adults: criminal sentiments and moral disengagement. This research aimed to observe the degree to which criminal sentiments moderate the association between specific personality traits and divergent behavior in young adults. Additionally, the study investigated whether moral disengagement mediates this relationship, providing insight into the underlying mechanisms that link personality traits to deviant behavior in the Pakistani context.

Extraversion and neuroticism were positively associated with criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior. The focus of this research was to test the assumed hypothesis that a positive relationship exists between extroversion, neuroticism, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior in young adults. The initial hypothesis was accepted as the results of the relationship analyses revealed that extroversion has a significant positive interaction with criminal sentiments and deviant behavior and is negatively associated with moral disengagement while neuroticism also has a significant positive relationship with criminal sentiments and moral disengagement but negative association with

deviant behavior. These findings were supported by the literature where Delcea and Enache. (2021) found that positive relationships were found between extraversion and criminality. Significant relationships were examined between neuroticism and criminality (Caprara et al. 2017). Adolescents with lower levels of agreeableness and conscientiousness and higher levels of extraversion have a condensed sensitivity to ethical norms (De Angelis et al. 2016).

The second hypothesis indicated agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness to experience were negatively related to criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior. The results showed that there was a significant negative relationship between agreeableness with deviant behavior and while positive significant association with criminal sentiments and moral disengagement. Conscientiousness has a significant negative relationship with criminal sentiments and moral disengagement while a significant positive association with deviant behavior. Openness to experience has significantly positively correlated with moral disengagement while negatively associated with deviant behavior. These findings were supported by the literature Međedović, (2017) study showed lower emotionality i.e., neuroticism and lower agreeableness are related to unlawful actions. Egan et al. (2015) observed that low agreeableness and conscientiousness were associated with high moral disengagement. Young adults who have low agreeableness, low conscientiousness, and openness have more criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior. Sleep (2021) definite that low agreeableness, low conscientiousness, and high neuroticism raise violence, mental distress, and antisocial behavior among people whereas Grice (2019) explains people with criminal behavior are more likely to have low levels of conscientiousness and agreeableness.

The third hypothesis indicated extraversion, neuroticism, criminal sentiments, and moral disengagement were positive predictors of deviant behavior. Other parts suggested that

agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness to experience were negative predictors of deviant behavior. The findings of the regression analysis established that extroversion was only the positive predictor of deviant behavior Santos and Eger (2014), Abdullah and Marican (2016) and Lim et al. (2016) discovered extraversion as an effective predictor of divergent actions, which links it with the likelihood to contribute in deviant actions. Agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, openness, criminal sentiments, and moral disengagement were negative predictors of deviant behavior. Aleksic and Vukovi (2018) observed that an individual who has a low level of agreeableness is more likely to show aggressive behavior and more excited to enter a conflict, thus more likely to contribute in divergent actions.

There was no literature for prediction about criminal sentiments and moral disengagement for the prediction of this variable for deviant behavior. These results showed that young adults who have more extroversion were also higher on deviant behavior because they seem more in society like movies, criminal scenes, how people did the wrong things, learn and perceive more positive and negative things. Those young adults who are more extroverted have more experiences as compared to introverts because introverts do not face society and do not interact with people for instance they see anything which was wrong they don't bother even when they don't see but extroverts learn from these incidents. There was a hypothesis that contradicted with results and did not match with hypothesis and literature review because we can say that it can be different societal factors or cultural differences and language barriers in the tools because we have used international tools. After all, there were no indigenous tools available according to Pakistan's context and culture. The main reason is possible that was study explored new things like prediction of criminal sentiments and moral disengagement those were new things explored in this study with the personality traits.

The hypothesis which was literature-based showed that extraversion, neuroticism, criminal sentiments, and moral disengagement were positive predictors of deviant behavior but the results showed that only extroversion has a positive prediction for deviant behavior in young adults. The other variables neuroticism criminal sentiments, and moral disengagement have negative predictions for deviant behavior which means those young adults who have more neuroticism have less deviant behavior whenever it contradicts to literature review. Similar to neuroticism criminal sentiments and moral disengagement also showed negative predictions for deviant behavior in young adults. Young adults who have more criminal sentiments have less deviant behavior which shows young adults think negatively about court, law, and police but don't do any illegal activity or violent act. Young adults who have more moral disengagement but have less deviant behavior the reason behind can be religious factors, family support, good qualification for good deeds, and great learning to deal with these sentiments and immoral and not cross or break norms of the society.

Other parts suggested that agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness to experience were negative predictors of deviant behavior. Results showed that agreeableness and conscientiousness have negative predictions for deviant behavior and openness to experiences showed negative predictions which oppose to literature but agreeableness and conscientiousness supported by the literature. Personality traits e.g., agreeableness, and conscientiousness can significantly negatively predict online deviant behaviors (Palmieri et al., 2021). An individual who has a low level of agreeableness is more likely to show aggressive behavior and more excited to enter a conflict, thus more likely to contribute to deviant actions. This study contradicts the literature review past researches described conscientiousness will have negative relationship with deviant behavior but in this study we have explored new findings which

showed that conscientiousness was positively associated with deviant behavior. According to Pakistani culture or population have more conscientiousness means they have strong influences of culture or religious because over 97% of residents practicing Islam. The possible reason can be socio-economic status, psychological factors, marital status, education etc.

Other hypotheses are based on the differences between gender, education, residential, acts of violence, and income differences in terms of personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior in young adults. The findings showed that there were significant gender differences between males and females. Females were higher on agreeableness, neuroticism, and openness to experiences, criminal sentiments, and moral disengagement while males were higher on extroversion, conscientiousness, and deviant behavior along with subscale conduct disorder, intermittent explosive disorder, and oppositional defiant disorder. The results showed that there was a significant difference between males and females in agreeableness. Females have more agreeableness than males. A significant difference was found between males and females about neuroticism. Females have more neuroticism than males. The female has more criminal sentiments than the male which shows female are more connected with the news, social media, etc. which creates some violent thinking in their mind and bad sentiments for court, law, and police, as they have higher moral disengagement as compared to the male which showed that they were more morally disengage than male there can be a reason that was higher on neuroticism personality trait.

The Educational differences showed that undergraduate was higher on agreeableness, neuroticism, criminal sentiments, and moral disengagement while graduates were higher on extroversion and deviant behavior along with subscales. Results showed that there was a significant difference between undergraduate and graduate. Undergraduate have more

agreeableness than graduate the reason behind can is undergraduate do not deal with society as graduate because there can be age difference and can easily believe the people and agree with them there can be more chances to do illegal activity and any violent act as compared to undergraduate. There was a significant difference between undergraduate and graduate in terms of neuroticism. Undergraduates have more neuroticism than graduates which shows that graduate young adults are more mature and can handle things and situations as compared to undergraduates but on the other hand, it is harmful for undergraduate students it may be possible to do violent activity. Undergraduates were also higher on criminal sentiments and moral disengagement than graduates which showed that they have more neuroticism, criminal sentiments, and moral disengagement which leads toward deviant behavior and antisocial behavior as compared to graduates because they have criminal thinking and have negative perception of court, law, and police and also morally disengage, the reason can be the current situation of Pakistan politic, economy and can enhance undergraduate young adults deviance.

The result showed significant differences between those who did any violent act and those who did not, those young adults who performed any violent act had more deviant behavior than those who did not do any violent act. Young adults who did any violent act have more criminal sentiments and are morally disengaged that's why they have more criminal sentiments or violent or aggressive attitudes towards law, court, and police are more morally disengaged from society and are more prone to perform illegal activities and antisocial behavior than those young adults who did not say yes or perform any violent act.

Anova analysis was run due to three study groups of monthly income that was below 50,000, 51,000 to 100,000, and above 101,000. A significant difference was observed in agreeableness, neuroticism, conscientiousness, tolerance for law, and deviant behavior. After

Anova, significant variable was tested through post hoc test to see those minor differences between these groups according to variables. Young adults who belong to a family who have a monthly income below 50,000 have more agreeableness than 51,000 to 100,000 and above 101,000 when we compare 51,000 to 100,000 monthly income young adults to above 101,000, agreeableness was higher in 51,000 to 100,000 than above 101,000. Young adults from families which have below 50,000 incomes can easily believe in others and groups of 51,000 to 100,000 have less agreeableness than those below 50,000.

Young adults from families who have monthly incomes below 50,000 have more neuroticism than the other two monthly income groups. 51,000 to 100,000 monthly income young adults have less neuroticism as compared to those below 50,000 but higher as compared to those above 101,000. The reason behind these results below 50,000 income young adults have fewer facilities than the other two groups. Above 101,000 monthly incomes have more facilities, access to things, and the best education that's why they are more neurotic than other groups

Young adults from families who have monthly incomes below 50,000 and 51,000 to 100,000 have more conscientiousness than those above 101,000. Below 50,000 have less conscientiousness than 51,000 to 100,000. Tolerance for law violence was less than 50,000 than the other two groups. These factors can be less education and facilities, and due to Pakistan's current condition make their thinking for no tolerance for law. Young adults of 51,000 to 100,000 families have a greater tolerance for law violence than those above 101,000.

Deviant behavior was greater in below 50,000 than 51,000 to 100,000 but less deviant behavior in above 101,000. Monthly income can be a factor for deviant behavior in both below 50,000 and above 101,000 because below 50,000 young adults have fewer opportunities and facilities, can be starving people, and cannot fulfill basic needs which makes their thinking

criminal leads toward deviant behavior and illegal activities. Young adults can learn from politician's corruption, consumption of alcohol, rape, etc. Young adults above 101,000 can be more violent don't respect parents, police, or court, and don't obey the law and norms.

It hypothesized that moral disengagement acts as a mediator between the relationship between personality traits (extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and openness to experiences) and deviant behavior in young adults. Results of mediation indicated that moral disengagement was a significant mediator in the relationship between extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, openness to experiences, and deviant behavior in young adults. Zhang et al., (2018) study also supports the result that moral disengagement is positively associated with deviant behaviors. When a person is morally disengaged, he or she may be indulging in deviant behavior to defend the actions. Moral disengagement is negatively mediated between employee creativity and cronyism (Naz., 2020).

Results showed that there was a significant total effect of extroversion on deviant behavior. Extroversion was found to have a significant indirect impact on the deviant behavior of young adults through moral disengagement. Moral disengagement was partially mediated as there was a significant direct effect of extroversion on deviant behavior. The results of mediation analysis suggest that extroversion has a direct and significant effect on deviant behavior. This finding indicates that the higher an individual's level of extroversion, the more likely they will engage in deviant behavior. Thus, extroversion presents a risk factor for exhibiting deviant behavior. Mediation analysis found a significant indirect effect of extroversion on deviant behavior through moral disengagement. This indicates that extroversion is related to deviant behavior through the psychological mechanism of moral disengagement. Moral disengagement is the process of cognitively reconstructing harmful behavior to reduce the associated negative

effects. As a result, highly extroverted people are more likely to engage in deviant behavior. Killer et al., (2019) Moral disengagement can predict youths' online deviant behavior significantly positively. Moral disengagement can help as the mediating mechanism of nearly psychological variables affecting online deviant behaviors (Fang et al., 2020).

Agreeableness was found to have a direct significant impact on the deviant behavior of young adults. Agreeableness had a significant effect on deviant behavior through moral disengagement. Having significant direct and indirect effects of agreeableness on deviant behavior through moral disengagement indicated partial mediation in young adults. The findings of the mediation analysis demonstrate that there is a significant direct effect of agreeableness on deviant behavior. That is, those who are more agreeable tend to engage in less deviant behavior than those who are less agreeable. Moreover, the results suggest that the relationship between agreeableness and deviant behavior is mediated by the individual's perception of social norms. This suggests that those who are more agreeable have a better understanding of social norms and therefore engage in less deviant behavior. The findings of the mediation analysis suggest that agreeableness has an indirect effect on deviant behavior through moral disengagement. Specifically, individuals with higher levels of agreeableness tend to engage in less moral disengagement, which in turn leads to lower levels of deviant behavior.

There was a significant total effect of conscientiousness on deviant behavior. Conscientiousness was found to have a significant indirect impact on the deviant behavior of young adults through moral disengagement. Moral disengagement was partially mediated as there was a significant direct effect of conscientiousness on deviant behavior. Mediation analysis findings indicated that conscientiousness has a significant direct effect on deviant behavior. This means that the more conscientious an individual is, the less they are likely to engage in deviant

behavior. The results suggest that measures of conscientiousness can be used to predict levels of misconduct and deviance. It was also found that there was a significant indirect effect of conscientiousness on deviant behavior through moral disengagement. Conscientiousness was found to reduce the use of moral disengagement strategies, which in turn reduced deviant behavior. This suggests that greater conscientiousness is associated with lower levels of moral disengagement, which may lead to less deviant behavior. Overall, this analysis suggests that conscientiousness is an important factor in influencing deviant behavior.

There was a significant direct effect of neuroticism on deviant behavior. Neuroticism was found to have a significant indirect impact on the deviant behavior of young adults through moral disengagement. Moral disengagement was partially mediated as there was a significant direct effect of neuroticism on deviant behavior. Mediation analysis has found that neuroticism has a significant direct effect on deviant behavior. Young adults with higher levels of neuroticism are more likely to engage in deviant behaviors. It was also found that neuroticism had a significant indirect effect on deviant behavior through moral disengagement. This means that higher levels of neuroticism are associated with higher levels of moral disengagement, which in turn is associated with higher levels of deviant behavior. Neuroticism was found to be a significant direct predictor of deviant behavior, as well as an indirect predictor through moral disengagement. Zhang et al., (2018) explained the relationship of narcissistic leaders with deviant behaviors discloses that moral disengagement helps personalities to expose their true colors. The significant positive relationship between narcissism and moral disengagement. The positive relationship between narcissism and knowledge hiding is mediated by moral disengagement (Jabeen et al., 2021). Narcissistic people are very motivated to create their grip on the workplace (Huang et al., 2019).

Openness to experience was found to have a direct non-significant impact on deviant behavior of young adults. Openness to experience had a significant effect on deviant behavior through moral disengagement. Having a significant indirect effect of openness to experience deviant behavior through moral disengagement indicated full mediation in young adults. Results showed that openness to experience has an indirect, yet significant effect on deviant behavior through moral disengagement. Openness to experience is positively associated with moral disengagement, which in turn positively predicts deviant behavior. This suggests that young adults who are more open to experience are more likely to engage in morally disengaged behaviors, which leads to a higher likelihood of deviant behavior and shows full mediation. The study of Fida et al. (2015) showed the mediating role of moral disengagement between stressors and deviant behaviors. The indirect impact of workplace hazing on organizational deviance and negative word-of-mouth via moral disengagement was significant (Raza et al., 2023).

The findings of a moderation analysis showed that there was a significant interaction between extroversion and deviant behavior in terms of criminal sentiments. Specifically, it was found that extroverted young adults who exhibited deviant behavior had higher levels of criminal sentiments than their introverted counterparts. Moreover, this effect was more pronounced in young adults with higher levels of extroversion. This suggests that extroversion may be a risk factor for criminal behavior and that young adults with higher levels of extroversion should be monitored more closely.

Moderation analysis showed that agreeableness was related to deviant behavior, but only when criminal sentiments were present. Specifically, the results indicated that agreeableness was a stronger predictor of deviant behavior when criminal sentiments were higher. This suggests that criminal sentiments may act as a moderator in the relationship between agreeableness and

deviant behavior. Thus, when criminal sentiments are strong, agreeableness may play an important role in determining a young adult's deviant behavior.

The findings of moderation analysis show that there is a significant interaction between conscientiousness and deviant behavior when criminal sentiments are involved. Specifically, when criminal sentiments are high, individuals with high conscientiousness tend to have lower levels of deviant behavior compared to those with low conscientiousness. Additionally, those with low conscientiousness tend to have higher levels of deviant behavior when criminal sentiments are high. This indicates that conscientiousness can act as a protective factor in reducing deviant behavior when criminal sentiments are present.

Results showed that there was a significant interaction between neuroticism and deviant behavior in terms of criminal sentiment. Those young adults with higher neuroticism levels exhibited more criminal sentiment when engaging in deviant behavior than those with lower neuroticism levels. This suggests that the increased risk of criminal behavior is greater when young adults are higher in neuroticism and engaging in deviant behavior.

The findings of moderation analysis that showed a non-significant interaction in criminal sentiments between openness to experience and deviant behavior showed that the two variables were not significantly related. It means that there is no effect of openness to experience on criminal sentiments in terms of deviant behavior. The results of the study provide additional evidence of the complexity of the relationship between personality traits and criminal behavior. It suggests that further research into the potential moderating effects of other personality traits is warranted.

### **Limitations of the study**

Personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior are all factors that influence young adults' decision-making and behavior. However, it is important to note that there is a limit to how much we can learn from studying these topics. The study may suffer from sampling bias, as it focuses exclusively on young adults. The findings may not be generalizable to other age groups or cultural contexts. The study relies on self-reported data, which may introduce bias. Individuals may underreport or misrepresent their deviant behavior due to social desirability bias. Social desirability bias is another limitation of studying personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior in young adults. Future studies must include a measure of social desirability scale to control desirability bias. This type of bias occurs when respondents provide answers that they believe are socially acceptable, rather than accurately reflecting their true beliefs and behaviors. This can lead to inaccurate results and conclusions. The study can establish correlations between personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior, but it may struggle to establish causality due to its cross-sectional design. Another limitation of the study was the lack of long-term data. Many studies only assessed participants at one point in time, which limited the ability to conclude long-term effects. Additionally, it can be difficult to study the effects of these traits and behaviors over time due to the dynamic nature of young adulthood. Culture and context were also important factors to consider when studying personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior in young adults. Different cultures and contexts may have different norms and values, which can influence the results of a study. Additionally, what was considered "normal" or "acceptable" behavior in one culture may not be acceptable in another. The study sample was restricted to urban areas, and the well-educated sample was

targeted. Future studies must curtail these factors to explore and analyze the comprehensive findings. In addition, something related to family dynamics as well, like we must take the data and compare the prevalence of deviant behavior in nuclear joint and broken family young adults.

### **Implications of the study**

The findings of the present study would help in making culturally sensitive preventive measures and intervening strategies for young adults to control crime rates and reduce the prevalence of deviant behavior in young adults. Ultimately strategies would help in encouraging community wellbeing and stable positive personalities in young adults. There are two types of implications of the study: theoretical implications and practical implications. Theoretical implications; The study highlights the need for further research in this area, particularly in terms of longitudinal studies that can examine the causal relationship between personality traits, criminal sentiments, moral disengagement, and deviant behavior in young adults. By understanding the underlying personality traits, criminal sentiments, and moral disengagement, interventions can be developed to address these factors and prevent criminal behavior. Additionally, this research could help to identify those at risk for criminal behavior, so that they can be provided with appropriate interventions and resources. Overall, this research has important implications for understanding the causes and effects of criminal behavior, and for developing effective strategies to reduce criminal behavior among young adults.

Practical implications; The study's findings can inform the development of intervention programs targeting young adults to address factors that contribute to deviant behavior. For example, programs can focus on reducing criminal sentiments and promoting moral engagement. Law enforcement agencies can utilize the findings to develop targeted policies and strategies that address the underlying factors associated with deviant behavior among young adults. This

understanding can help in the development of effective interventions, both preventative and rehabilitative, that target these factors. It is also important to remember that young adults are still in the process of developing their personalities and moral compass. Therefore, it is essential to provide young people with guidance and support that can help them to develop healthy, moral decision-making skills. This can help to reduce the risk of criminal behavior in the future. In conclusion, the findings of this study have far-reaching implications for how we view criminal behavior and the potential for rehabilitation.

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**Appendix A**

**Permission Letter from Authors**



## Fwd: FW: Permission Regarding Criminal Sentiment scale Developed by J.Stephen Wormith

1 message

**Dr. Sadia Huda** <sadia.huda@umt.edu.pk>  
To: SHAFQAT ALI <f2021238011@umt.edu.pk>

Mon, 20 Nov 2023 at 1:35 pm



**Dr. Sadia Huda**  
Assistant Professor  
School of Professional Psychology (SPP)  
University of Management and Technology  
C-II, Johar Town, Lahore, Pakistan.  
Tel: +92 42 111 300 200  
Website: [www.umt.edu.pk](http://www.umt.edu.pk) Email: [sadia.huda@umt.edu.pk](mailto:sadia.huda@umt.edu.pk)



 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lawson, Karen** <[karen.lawson@usask.ca](mailto:karen.lawson@usask.ca)>  
Date: Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 10:36 PM  
Subject: FW: Permission Regarding Criminal Sentiment scale Developed by J.Stephen Wormith  
To: [sadia.huda@umt.edu.pk](mailto:sadia.huda@umt.edu.pk) <[sadia.huda@umt.edu.pk](mailto:sadia.huda@umt.edu.pk)>

Hello Dr. Huda,

Dr. Bonham-Smith forwarded your message to me. Yes, Dr. Wormith has passed away. Fortunately, the Criminal Sentiment Scale is in the public domain and not under copyright or sold commercially, so no permissions are required to use it. If you have a copy of the scale or any variant, then you are free to use it as you see fit. If you do not have a copy of the scale, you should be able to locate one of the published versions.

I hope that this information is helpful.

Cheers

Karen

\*\*\*\*\*

**Karen Lawson PhD CE (she/her)**

Professor and Department Head

Department of Psychology and Health Studies



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## Permission to use Moral Disengagement Scale

1 message

---

**Hymel, Shelley** <shelley.hymel@ubc.ca>  
To: SHAFQAT ALI <f2021238011@umt.edu.pk>

Mon, 12 Dec 2022 at 10:18 pm

Dear Shafqat Ali,

Thank you for your email and your interest in our measure of Moral Disengagement. You can certainly use our scale, but I would suggest that there are better ones out there. Our scale was created post hoc (after the fact) based on a survey of adolescents, created for other reasons, so the items were not always as strong as they could be. See attached article but also see more recent work by Robert Thornberg on Moral Disengagement or perhaps Albert Bandura's original measure. Good luck with your research.

Sincerely,

Shelley Hymel

---

**From:** SHAFQAT ALI <f2021238011@umt.edu.pk>  
**Date:** Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 10:57 PM  
**To:** "Hymel, Shelley" <shelley.hymel@ubc.ca>  
**Cc:** "Dr. Sadia Huda" <sadia.huda@umt.edu.pk>  
**Subject:** Permission to use Moral Disengagement Scale

[CAUTION: Non-UBC Email]

[Quoted text hidden]



---

## Permission to use Deviant Behavior Scale

1 message

---

**Dr. Shahnila Tariq** <shahnila.tariq@umt.edu.pk>  
To: SHAFQAT ALI <f2021238011@umt.edu.pk>  
Cc: Dr. Sadia Huda <sadia.huda@umt.edu.pk>

Mon, 12 Dec 2022 at 12:09 pm

Dear Shafqat  
You are allowed to use this scale.  
Good luck for your research.  
Take care  
[Quoted text hidden]

**Appendix E**

**Certificate of Approval of the Dissertation**



**Department of Applied Psychology**  
**School of Professional Psychology**  
**University of Management and Technology**  
*We train Professionals*

**Certificate of Approval of Dissertation**

Name of Participant/Candidate \_\_\_\_\_ Participant ID \_\_\_\_\_

Approval for: \_\_\_\_\_

**APA Format (7<sup>th</sup> Edition)**

▪ Title Page	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
▪ Table of Contents	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
▪ Font size	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
▪ Spacing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
▪ Margins	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
▪ Page numbers	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
▪ Alignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
▪ Reference citation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
▪ Grammar Check (by using software, e.g. Ginger)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
▪ Quality of Expression	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

**Main Dissertation**

1. Introduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
1.1 Implications of the current research	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
1.2 Aims	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
1.3 Objectives	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2. Review of literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2.1 Recent local and international literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2.2 Rationale of the study	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2.3 Research Question/s	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2.4 Hypotheses (If any)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3. Method	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3.1 Research design	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3.2 Setting	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3.3 Participants (sampling strategy)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3.4 Measures	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3.5 Procedure (ethical considerations)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
4. Analysis of the results	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
4.1 Descriptive analysis	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
4.2 Inferential analysis	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
4.3 Summary of results	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
5. Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
6. Limitation and Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
7. Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
8. References	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
9. Appendices	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

10. Plagiarism report

Yes

No

❖ This document is approved/ not approved for final submission.

Signature of the Deponent

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_