Abstract

The present work pretended to explore which strategies of coping were adopted in two groups of adolescents (group 1 and 2), in two different moments: before the robbery situation (in a preventive level) and during the robbery. It also tried to understand what were the factors associated with the choice of those strategies. The analysis of content allowed verifying, with the focus group technique, possible differences in the beliefs of both groups that appeared in the attitudes of participants in a robbery context and in the adoption of preventive strategies verified. Group 1 presented, in the beginning of a robbery situation, a cooperative posture and adopted Problem-solving and Self-reliance as preventive strategies. In group 2 the initial posture was an opposite one and they adopted Problem-solving as a preventive strategy. In both groups, it appeared that some determinants (like age, gender, physical closeness, number of people present, existence of weapons, type of approach and beliefs) contributed to the choice of coping strategies that involved cooperation or no cooperation with the robber.

**Key – words:** robbery, coping strategies, preventive coping, adolescents