



Moral values among rural children : gender differentials

■ Prachi Bisht and Seema Sharma

Department of Human Development, College of Home Science, Punjab Agricultural University, LUDHIANA (PUNJAB) INDIA
(Email: seemahub@gmail.com)

ARTICLE INFO :

Article history :

Received : 25.01.2012
Sent for revision : 18.03.2012
Accepted : 07.05.2012

Key words :

Moral values, Joint families, Nuclear families, Cultural values

How to cite this Article :

Bisht, Prachi and Sharma, Seema (2012). Moral values among rural children : gender differentials, *Adv. Res. J. Soc. Sci.*, 3 (1) : 51 - 54.

ABSTRACT

Moral values are on constant decline in the present day society which are indicative of a civilized and uncivilized persons. With the serious increase in juvenile delinquency, increase in studying the causes, cures and prevention of juvenile delinquency has become a psychological and a sociological concern .The present study investigated the assessment of gender differences in moral values among rural children .Two hundred children (100 boys and 100 girls) of late childhood years(10-12years) from rural areas of Ludhiana district were assessed for the moral values and the levels of moral values using Moral Value scale and differences were assessed using z test. Results revealed a non-significant gender differences within joint and nuclear families as well as irrespective of family type among total respondents and also a non-significant association was found between the levels of moral values and gender within joint families, within nuclear families and among total respondents irrespective of the type of family though favouring girls in moral value and its levels.

INTRODUCTION

It is a general consensus that moral values are on constant decline in the present day society which are indicative of a civilized and uncivilized person. With the serious increase in juvenile delinquency, increase in studying the causes, cures and prevention of juvenile delinquency has become a psychological and a sociological concern. The level and types of youth crime can be used by commentators as an indicator of the general state of morality and law and order in a country, and consequently youth crime can be the source of 'moral panics'. Morality has two principal meanings: In its "descriptive" sense, morality refers to personal or cultural values, codes of conduct or social morals that distinguish between right and wrong in the human society. In its "normative" sense, morality refers directly to what is right and wrong, regardless of what specific individuals think (Gert and Bernard, 2008).

Late childhood is perhaps the most critical period for the formation of moral values in children as children in this period

starts absorbing the nature of moral and immoral behavior in varied situations as this is the stage of autonomous morality. Family is the primary social institution and its forces have a major influence on the moral behavior of the child. Family is the basic and universal social structure of human society.

The effective experiences within the family relationships make important contributions in moral understanding of children (Dunn, 1988). It has been found that family system influences the personality development of the child and this in-turn influence the altruistic behavior which is also an aspect of moral development in children. India's social norms are more restrictive for girls. They are taught to have patience, forbearance, kindness, helpfulness and the like characteristics .Thus, their rearing is different from boys which may be an important cause of higher level of altruism among girls than among boys (Sharma *et al.*, 2010) girls mostly identify with mother who are the most sacrificing and altruistic member of most of the families. But today with the change in the mind sets of the people child rearing practices are not gender specific the treatment for girls and boys are almost equal with same