

# Parental encouragement among adolescents: A study of locale and gender differences

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Received: 09.04.2014; Revised: 08.05.2014; Accepted: 21.05.2014

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Parents play an important role in all round development of the child. The emotional bondage and the intimacy between parents and their children give a sense of security to the children and help in the development of a positive self - concept. Parental encouragement is one of the aspects of parent treatment patterns. In encouragement the parents help the child in such a way that he may not feel disheartened at a particular point of difficulty. Parental encouragement goes a long way in helping the children to achieve better in different spheres of life. In the present investigation, an attempt has been made to study the relationship of locale and gender as determinants of parental encouragement among adolescents. The study was conducted on 200 adolescents (100 boys and 100 girls) in the age range of 14-16 years residing in rural and urban areas of Ludhiana. Agarwal Parental Encouragement Scale developed by Agarwal (1999) was used to measure the parental encouragement as perceived by the adolescents. The test contained a total number of 80 items under eight dimensions of parental encouragement. Significant gender differences existed in parental encouragement whereas significant locale differences were found in the dimensions of parental encouragement among rural and urban respondents.

■ **KEY WORDS**: Adolescents, Parental encouragement, Gender differences

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Jain, Payal and Kang, Tejpreet Kaur (2014). Parental encouragement among adolescents: A study of locale and gender differences. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 9 (1) : 227-231.