

Research Paper :

## Determinants of adolescent's perception of parental disciplinary practices in different income groups

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### ABSTRACT

The paper presents the results of an extensive study with 270 adolescents on their perceptions of their parents' disciplinary practices. The study looked at three key dimensions of fathers' and mothers' parenting practices: authoritative, authoritarian and permissive. The findings revealed that high and middle income group parents were perceived as more authoritarian by sons as compared to daughters of respective income groups. Whereas, a reverse situation was seen for permissive parenting style category as parents were perceived as more permissive by daughters than sons. Correlation analysis indicated that perceived authoritarian parenting had negative significant relationships with different variables like, academic performance, education of mother and father and family income for both girls and boys.

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**Key words :** Adolescence, Perception, Authoritative, Authoritarian and permissive

Adolescence is recognized as a period of crucial development due to many stresses and strains which are experienced by the adolescents themselves as well as their parents. It is the time during which boys and girls move from childhood to adulthood physically, emotionally, mentally and socially. As the children reach adolescence, parents suddenly discover that children no longer view their parents as source of knowledge and neither listen to them. On the other hand, as the child reaches adolescence, he aspires to make his own decisions and experience, freedom of action.

A strong relationship of adolescents and parents greatly depends upon adolescent's perception of their parent's manner of handling them. Although adolescent's perception may be more important predictor of adolescent outcomes than are parent's reports, surprisingly little research has compared parents and adolescent's perception of parent's parenting styles. Measures of parents disciplinary style obtained from parents are biased by many factors, among them their desire to portray themselves in the most favourable light. Children are more candid. Furthermore, regardless of how a parent actually treats a child, it is the child's perception and the nature of interaction which is most important. Therefore, adolescent's perception as a measure of parental disciplinary practices was selected in order to obtain more

valid information by having parenting style practices classified into three categories following Baumrind's (1973) criteria: authoritative, authoritarian and permissive.

A strong relationship of adolescents and parents greatly depends upon adolescent's perception of their parent's manner of handling them. If they perceived parental disciplinary methods in a positive way, their relationship will be healthier and stronger. On the other hand, if it is perceived negatively, the relationship is more likely to be strained. Good parent-child relationship is possible, not only when children are perceived as good or are good from the perspective of children, but also when parenting practices are good from the perspective of children (Balda and Duhan, 2001). The present research was, therefore planned to study the adolescent's perception of parental disciplinary practices in different income groups and relationship of selected independent variables with perceived parental disciplinary practices.

### METHODOLOGY

#### Sample:

The sample comprised of 270 adolescents in the age group 14-15 years equally representing the three income groups *i.e.* high, middle and low from schools of Hisar city. In each income group 90 adolescents equally representing both the sexes were selected randomly