

A study on adjustment and perception about parenting among institutional children

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■ **ABSTRACT** : The present study was undertaken during 2005-07 with the objective to study the prevalence of different types of abuse adjustment, perception about parenting and its relationship with adjustment among institutional children. The population comprised children residing juvenile institutions of Belgaum division. Information about social, emotional, educational adjustments of children and their perception about different parenting models was collected using Sinha and Singh (1997) and Bharadwaj *et al.* (1998) scales, respectively. The results revealed that majority of children were neglected followed by physical abuse by their parents/caregivers. Further, majority of children had unsatisfactory adjustment in social, emotional and educational areas. Majority of children perceived that their parents had rejecting attitude towards them, careless about them and indulgent in their interpersonal relationships. Positive relationship was observed between children perception about different parenting models and their adjustment.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Adjustment, Perception, Parenting, Institutional children

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In recent years the role of parent- child relationship in personality development of children and their adjustment is highly emphasized. Parents are the architects in shaping the personality of a child. The foremost duty of parents is to provide their child with satisfaction by creating in home an emotional climate conducive to their healthy personality development. Besides fulfilling their children's physical needs they are responsible to satisfy their psychological needs for affection, security, belongingness, praise and all suitable models for behaviour. The amount of rapport that exists between parents and children determines the degree to which the children absorb in them ideals and aspirations set for them by their parents. According to Khan (1980) how parents treat children, how much interest they take in children's affairs, what works children are made to attend at home, discrimination among children, punishment given to children and facilities at home are some of the issues which influence the behaviour of children.

Institution children are often referred as orphan, destitute children who are in need of care and protection. They are left

helpless, abandoned, neglected due to social, economic and personal reasons of their parents or caregiver. They experience early separation of parents and deprivation of parental care, love, affection, warmth, security, acceptance during childhood. Those who are deprived of secure attachment with the primary caregiver may develop negative model of self and primary caregiver in their interpersonal relationship. The perception of children about their parents is an indication of what they receive from them. It depends upon parent's attitude towards children and their quality of reaction expressed towards them. Children develop a feeling of trust and sense of security if parents provide warmth, support and proper care. Serot and Teevan (1961) pointed out that child's perception of his parent-child relationship is correlated to his adjustment. So, the present study was carried out with the following objectives, to know the prevalence of different types of abuse, to study the social, emotional and educational adjustment of institutional children, to understand the children's perception about their parent's parenting and to find out the relationship between different models of parenting and adjustment of