

Father- daughter relationship of urban families in Ludhiana city

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■ **ABSTRACT** : The present study was undertaken to assess the father-daughter relationship of urban families in Ludhiana city. The study was based upon the sample of 160 respondents in the age range of 13-15 years, belonging to middle socio-economic status selected purposively from government senior secondary schools, Ludhiana city. Data were collected through parent child relationship scale (PCRS) (father form) by Nalini Rao (1989). Results revealed that the majority of the daughters had an average relationship with their fathers and daughters in the age group of =15 years enjoyed a slightly better relationship with their father as compared to the other age groups.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Father, Daughter, Relationship

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Relationships are difficult to explain and understand. Until recently, most of the researches on parent-child relationships have focused on mothers and children. Now-a-days, researches show that fathers affect their children's upbringing especially daughters because children form multiple bonds with both parents. For many years, behavioural experts and popular belief held that fathers served as role models primarily for their sons. Fisher (1989) demonstrated that a woman's perception of her father's attentiveness and acceptance towards her during childhood stage is directly related to her self-esteem, self-definition, comfort with femininity, and comfort with her sexuality. A poor relationship with her father could result in poor relationships with men. She may seek-out father-figures instead of partners, or even end up being a doormat. In psychoanalytic theory, Freud postulated that the Electra complex was the most important event of girl child, an event that would have a great effect on a girl's subsequent adult life. Freud believed that the Electra complex was resolved through a process known as 'sex role identification' (Kagan and Segal, 2004) a significant period in a girl's life when she identifies with the same-sex parent and begins to develop her own identity. A father serves as a daughter's chief model for choosing a boyfriend or husband, even if on a subconscious level. If a father is warm, patient and supportive, his daughter probably will find a

significant other with the same gentle qualities (Katz and Kloet, 2010). Nielson (2007) observed that a father's absence has a negative impact on the daughter's ability to trust and relate well to the male in her life. She further emphasized that father absent daughters are usually less confident, less self-reliant and less successful in school and in their careers than father present daughter.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The sample consisted of 160 children in the age range of 13-15 years, belonging to middle socio-economic status from the randomly selected Government Senior Secondary Schools of Ludhiana city (Punjab). A list of all the Government Senior Secondary Schools in the urban areas of Ludhiana city of Punjab was procured from District Education Officer, Ludhiana (DEO). From the list, four co-educational Government schools were randomly selected to constitute the sample. A list of students aged between 13-15 years in the selected schools was prepared by ascertaining their date of birth from school records. From these lists, a sample of 160 adolescent girls were purposively selected *i.e.* n=40 from each school. The data were collected through Parent Child Relationship Scale (PCRS) (Father Form) by Nalini Rao (1989). This scale contains 10 dimensions and each dimension contains 10 statements and analyzed by calculating percentage. Scoring was done