



Adolescence : Peer acceptance related aspects

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken in Banasthali University Rajasthan. The study was conducted on 100 adolescent girls of classes 11th, 12th, Graduation 1st year and 2nd year. The purpose of study was to identify and the verify factors responsible for peer acceptance. These were physical appearance, qualities, social, academic achievement and fashion trends. Self-constructed questionnaire was used for data collection. The data were analyzed by using Frequency and percentage. The main findings indicated that academic achievement plays an important role in peer acceptance.

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is generally considered to begin with puberty, the process that leads to sexual maturity or fertility- the ability to reproduce. Erickson, a famous psychoanalyst who developed a very comprehensive theory of human development, defined adolescence as “a period of rapid changes- physical, psychological and social a time when all sameness and continuities relied upon earlier is more or less questioned again”. The term adolescent come from the Latin word “Adolescence” means “to grow to maturity” primitive peoples- as was true also in earlier civilization- do not consider puberty and adolescence to be distinct period in the life span, the child is regards as an adult when capable of reproduction. As it is used, the term adolescence has a broader meaning. It includes mental, emotional and social maturity as well as physical maturity. During adolescence, the importance of peer group increases enormously. Teenagers seek support from others in order to cope with the physical, emotional and social changes of adolescence. Peer network are essential to the

adolescent’s development of social skills (Hoza, 2002).

Adolescent and peers:

Adolescence going through rapid physical change takes comfort from being with other going through like changes. Teenager challenging adult standards and parental authority find it reassuring to turn for advice to friends who are in same position themselves. The peer group is a source of affection, sympathy, understanding, and moral guidance, a place for experimentation and a setting for achieving autonomy independence from parents. It is a place to form intimate relationship that serves as “rehearsals” for adult intimacy. (Laursen, 2004).

The influence of peers is strongest in early adolescence, it normally peaks at ages 12 to 13 and declines during middle and late adolescence, as relationships with parents are renegotiated to peers in early adolescence does not forecast trouble unless the attachment is so strong that the young person is willing to give up obeying household rules, doing school works, and developing his or her own talents in orders