

A study on some correlates of parent adolescent conflict

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to find out some correlates of parent adolescent conflict. The respondents of study comprised of 25 parents of adolescents studying in higher secondary classes of age between 16 to 18 years. The findings revealed that the parent adolescent conflict is more in case of authoritarian parents than those in case of authoritative parents. In case of lower income family, conflict is more than higher income family.

KEY WORDS : Adolescence, Conflict, Correlates

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INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a transitional stage of physical and mental development generally occurring between puberty and adulthood. An adolescent is a person of age between twelve/thirteen and seventeen/eighteen years.

Adolescence is a period of physical, mental, emotional, social changes of children. According to quick individual and family changes, typical for adolescent the probability of divergence of views of parents and children is higher than in previous periods and therefore parent adolescent conflict occurs in this period.

Family has very great influence on adolescents (Devedas and Jaya, 2004a). Even if their previous relations were good, now it becomes strained, although serious conflicts are mentioned only in fifteen to twenty percentage of families. But nevertheless, most of them are caused by such ordinary problems as housework, day routine, dates and marks. Parent adolescent conflict appears seldom when it concerns main economic, social values. There are other factors of conflict in parent adolescent interaction, such as income level, education of parents, sex differences and mostly parenting style. There are three types of parenting styles authoritative, authoritarian and liberal. Authoritative parenting style favours normal and sensible adolescent's behaviour. Such behaviour is

characterized by responsible, independent actions by high level of self-reception and control. Adolescents who are educated by authoritarian parents can be dependent and anxious in the presence of people of powers. They feel inferior if their parents ignore them completely. Liberal style presupposes low level of control. It includes absence of any rule, restriction, prohibition, but there is plenty of adolescents' freedom.

A good parent adolescent relation is very important for adolescent (Devadas and Jaya, 2004b). Poor relationship between parent and adolescent can result in psychological hazards in adolescent. The adolescent whose relationship with parents is poor, may also develop poor relationship with people outside the home. In order to maintain a healthy relationship between parents and adolescents, parents must be understanding and learn to accept that their adolescent child may feel differently from themselves and want different things out of life.

The objectives are as follows : to assess influence of parenting styles on parent adolescent conflict and to assess parent's income on parent adolescent conflict.

METHODS

Sample :

The sample comprised of 25 parents of adolescents

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Table 1 : Distribution of parent adolescent conflict in relation to parental disciplinary practices		
Types of parental disciplinary practice	Total number	Showing conflict
Authoritarian parents	8	6 (75.00)
Authoritative	17	8 (47.00)

NB : Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage of the total

Table 2 : Distribution of parent adolescent conflict in relation to parents' income level		
Income level	Number of respondent	No. of respondent showing conflict
Below 15,000	10	6 (60.00)
15,000-20,000	8	4 (50.00)
20,000 and above	7	4 (57.00)

NB : Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage of the total

including both male and female studying in higher secondary classes of age between 16 to 18 years.

Procedures of data collection :

The data were assessed through personal interview method using interview schedule. The interview schedule included two parts. First part contained background information of the respondents. Second part contained questions related to parent adolescent conflict such as parental disciplinary practices.

Statistical analysis:

Data collected from survey were analyzed and calculated in terms of frequency percentage to facilitate the interpretation of results.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Table 1 presents distribution of parent adolescent conflict in relation to parental disciplinary practices. The table reveals that authoritarian parents had highest (75%) conflict with their adolescent son/daughter and authoritative parents had lowest (47%) conflict with their adolescent son/daughter.

From the results (Table 1) it is found that the parent adolescent conflict is more in case of authoritarian parents than those in case of authoritative parents. Because in authoritarian parenting style, there is strict rules and regulations and there is no freedom of action, thought and movement which causes often parent adolescent conflict. Because of high restriction, become rebellious and revolting and become aggressive and hostile to others. But authoritative parenting style is characterized by explanation, discussion and reasoning to help the child understand why he/she is expected to behave in a certain manner. In this parenting style, there is no highly strict rules and no harsh punishment at any time. It is a democratic parenting style. Parents of this kind of parenting style try to understand their child and therefore, parent adolescent conflict is less

in this kind of parenting style.

Table 2 presents distribution of parent adolescent conflict in relation to parents' income level. The table reveals that in six (60%) families, parents adolescent conflict was identified, where income of the family was below Rs. 15,000.00, whereas in only four (50%) families, parent adolescent conflict was present where income of the family was between Rs. 15,000.00 – Rs. 20,000.00. Similarly in case of parents whose income level was between Rs. 20,000.00 and above, only in four (57%) families had showed parent adolescent conflict.

From the results (Table 2) it is found that the parent adolescent conflict is more in lower income family than in higher income family. Because in lower income family, the parents may not be able to fulfill their child's needs. If the adolescents do not get their desired things, it may lead to negative feelings in their mind towards their parents and some times it causes conflict with their parents.

Conclusion:

It may be concluded that adolescents exposed to authoritarian type of parental control had more conflict with their parents than those exposed to authoritative type of parental control. The study revealed that in lower income family, parent adolescent conflict is more than in higher income family.

LITERATURE CITED

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