

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

to win peer approval and popularity (Lieberman, 2001). During adolescence, the importance of peer groups increases enormously, teenager seek support from other in order to cope with the physical emotional and social changes of adolescence (Ingersall, 2000).

Peer networks are essential to the adolescent's development of social skills. The reciprocal equality that characterizes teenage relationships also helps develop positive responses to the various crises there young people face. Teenagers learn from their friends and age-mates the kinds of behaviour that will be socially rewarded and the roles that best suit them. Social competence is a major element in a teenager's ability to make new friends and maintain old ones (Allen, 2003). The need to "get along with" peers, be accepted by the group, and not be seen as different, may seem at times to totally dominate the adolescent's thoughts and actions.

If the impact of peers is negative at times, that impact is far out weighted by the ramifications of being excluded from the peer group. Failure to establish workable social ties with peers is a predictor of social and emotional maladjustment during adolescence and adulthood (Graig, 2002).

Peer is more general term referring both to close friends and to a broader, less clearly definable body of age mates or social mates who share common experience. At another level, more remote from the individual adolescent than the clique, is what we call a crowd (Cooper, 2001). Adolescents learn to interact with others through peer group. We are social being and our ability to get along with others and be accepted by others is critical to adequate personal adjustment. Failure to develop these social skills is an antecedent to a variety of adolescent and adult mental health problems.

It is true that peer influence is a major element in adolescent's decisions to participate in antisocial or troublesome behaviour; peer influences also provide beneficial social support. Peer and friend serves and important function for adolescent's feelings of self-worth, particularly with reference to feelings of belonging and acceptability.

Major objective:

To assess various aspects responsible for peer acceptance

METHODS

The present study was carried out in Banasthali

University, Rajasthan. The study was conducted on school girls as it was a women's university. Survey method and random sampling was done for sample selection. The sample for study consisted of 100 adolescent's students studying in 11th class, 12th class, graduation 1st year and graduation 2nd year between 15-20 years (25 from each class).

Tool used:

In this study self made questionnaire was prepared by the investigator to assess the comprised 22 questions were used for the study. The questionnaire aimed to assess the adolescent's success with peer in aspects of physical appearance, qualities, social factors, academic achievement and fashion trends among school and college going students. Each question had two options. The option with positive attitude carried one mark and other option no with negative attitude carried zero mark.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Assessment of the five aspects of popularity physical appearance, extra qualities, social factors, academic achievement and fashion trends among four grade adolescent girls of 11th, 12th, graduation 1st year, and graduation 2nd year. The result and discussion are presented under the following parts:

Table 1 clearly shows, that adolescents who have attractive personality are more popular among their peer group, because this is acceptable by each grade and score of this are, is 91 per cent. Health related issues are less important in comparison to others because findings shows that this is less acceptable by each and every grade and score of this area is 71 per cent.

Table 2 reveals academic achievements of the adolescents who participate in extracurricular activities are more popular among their peer group, because this aspect is acceptable by each grade. The score of this area is 93 per cent in this investigation investigator find lowest score from every grade in using drugs, alcohol smoke, it is 12 per cent.

Table 3 shows the adolescents are engage in social gatherings are more popular, because this is shown in our findings and acceptable by each grade. The score of this area is 77 per cent. The adolescents who have good relationship with opposite sex are less popular because this is also acceptable by each grade and score is 50 per cent.

| Physical appearance | 11 th class (f) | 12 th class (f) | Graduation 1 st year (f) | Graduation 2 nd year (f) | Total % |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|------------|
| Physical fitness | 23 | 24 | 23 | 20 | 90 |
| Beauty | 16 | 21 | 19 | 18 | 74 |
| Attractive personality | 22 | 25 | 22 | 22 | 91 |
| Health related | 22 | 18 | 15 | 16 | 71 |

| Qualities | 11 th class (f) | 12 th class (f) | Graduation 1 st year (f) | Graduation 2 nd year (f) | Total % |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|------------|
| Extracurricular activities | 22 | 24 | 23 | 24 | 93 |
| Caring and helping nature | 21 | 24 | 21 | 23 | 89 |
| Drugs, alcohol or smoke | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 12 |
| Respect and obey their elders | 21 | 23 | 22 | 23 | 89 |
| Assertive and aggressive behaviour | 20 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 80 |

| Social factor | 11 th class (f) | 12 th class (f) | Graduation 1 st year (f) | Graduation 2 nd year (f) | Total % |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|------------|
| Same sex relationship | 17 | 18 | 12 | 13 | 60 |
| Opposite sex relation | 9 | 9 | 15 | 17 | 50 |
| Engage in social gathering | 21 | 19 | 17 | 20 | 77 |
| Feeling of nationality | 21 | 17 | 15 | 17 | 70 |
| Follow rules ,norms | 20 | 14 | 17 | 18 | 69 |
| Social welfare work | 19 | 15 | 15 | 21 | 70 |

| Academic achievement | 11 th class (f) | 12 th class (f) | Graduation 1 st year (f) | Graduation 2 nd year (f) | Total % |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|------------|
| Obtain good mark | 21 | 22 | 16 | 20 | 79 |
| Giftedness | 21 | 21 | 19 | 24 | 85 |
| High intellectual level | 21 | 24 | 21 | 23 | 89 |

| Fashion trends | 11 th class (f) | 12 th class (f) | Graduation 1 st year (f) | Graduation 2 nd year (f) | Total % |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|------------|
| Recent fashion trends | 17 | 20 | 13 | 19 | 69 |
| Fusion | 18 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 66 |
| Uniqueness | 18 | 19 | 14 | 16 | 67 |

Observations of Table 4 suggest that high intellectual level is responsible for peer acceptance and every grade response positively for this area of popularity, score 89 per cent whereas, each grade accepted that the adolescents who obtain good marks are less popular as compare to other, score 79 per cent.

Table 5 shows that 69 per cent students of every grade accept that the adolescents who adopt recent fashion trends are more popular among their peer group, whereas those adolescents are less popular who adopt fusion (mix both old and new). This is also acceptable by each grade and score 66 per cent.

Conclusion:

Peer group play a prominent role in the lives of Teenagers and peer pressure is an important mechanism for transmitting

group norms and maintaining loyalties among group member. Although peer serves as major socialization agent in adolescence, peer pressure varies in strength and direction across grades. School performance is a key mechanism through which adolescents learns about their talent, abilities and competencies, which help them in Academic Achievement and peer acceptance. To the finding shows that the Academic Achievement play important role in comparison to physical appearance, qualities, social factor and fashion trends for peer acceptance.

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