Occupation of fathers and child socialization techniques

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ABSTRACT

Little has been known about the occupation of fathers and their behaviour regarding the child socialization in the basis of fathers' occupational nature and status. Aims of the study were: to determine demographic characteristics of the respondents whose occupation was white collar (Government officers, doctors, teachers and businessmen and others); to study the parental socialization value; to study the relationship between the nature of father's occupation and child socialization techniques. The study was conducted on a purposive sample of 200 fathers in white-collar jobs. Fathers socialization value was assessed by the Fathers Socialization Value Scale and Fathers' Occupation Socialization Techniques were assessed by the Socialization Techniques scale developed by the investigators. Fathers in white collar job (93 %) emphasized on uniqueness of the child by listening and talking to them whenever their child feels like, child's where about (90 %) and (71 %) used mainly logics and explanation to socialize their children whereas fathers in white collar jobs (64 %) opined that children should not get away with misbehaviour. Doing well in school is important (54 %). There were no statistically significant scores between the age of the fathers and child socialization techniques and educational qualifications and child socialization techniques but there has been statistically significance between the occupation of father and child socialization. The findings presented here indicated that father with white collar job use two technique such as permissive as well as authoritative patterns in socializing children. Results revealed that the most of the respondents (71 %) primarily depended on reason and explanation for socializing children. However, a significant number of fathers (80 %) also punished their children for their undesirable behaviour. Result also showed that fathers were very concerned about child's friends.

INTRODUCTION

Parents are the most important socializing agents who deeply influence the process and contents of socialization. Socialization values not only condition parental behaviour in children but also help shape the children's value system, which affects their chance in life and pathways to success. Children being the future member of any society, socialization remains one of the crucial determinants characteristics of a society. Emphasis on parents as the primary agents of socialization could be traced in Freud (1949) who argued that the significant aspect of personality tales shape during the early years of life when children spent much of their time at home under their parents' close supervision. Parents, who are accepting, respect their children's individuality and independence, they do not expect their children to be like themselves and they give up the struggle to make their teenagers meet all their expectation. This doesn't mean that your teenagers should get away with bad or inappropriate behaviour. Parents play a formative role by encouraging children to pursue some course or activity options while discouraging or ignoring others by providing certain opportunities for their youngsters and by making their expectation and values known to their children. Parental provision of opportunities and encouragement are discussed as it relates to children's perceptions of their own abilities, and as motivational factors that may underlie children's decisions regarding various activities relate choices across domains.

Among the socialization goals of the family is the development of children's activity and vocational choices. In setting paths and trajectories in motion, parents can play as formative role by encouraging children to pursue some activity options while discouraging or ignoring other possible choices. Parents may do this, impart, by providing certain opportunities and material for their youngsters. Parenting practices and behaviour have been shown to impact children's well-being, adjustment and development (Macoby, 1992). Parenting behaviour has been linked intergenerational; however, often these studies focus on negative or ineffective parenting behaviours and likewise often rely on retrospective reporting. Increasingly, effective parenting consists of high level of support and low level of intergenerational parenting transfers (Belsky et al., 2005). The manner in which a parent disciplines, communicates, and shows affection has an enormous effect upon the psychological development of their child. In 1967, Baumrind began to recognize the consequences of various parenting techniques and indentified certain methods into four categories: authoritarian, authoritative, neglectful and indulgent. The autonomy and social competence of a child are based upon the method utilized by their parents. The influence of parenthood during development demonstrates imperative importance when one studies and applies the distinct parenting models to the life of a child.

Authoritarian parenting is characterised by a restrictive punishment style. The parent anticipated obedience and hard work from their child.

Authoritative parenting places a strong emphasis on independence while enforcing limits and a form of control.

Parents who employ the neglectful models are uninvolved and uninterested in the lives of their children. Indulgent parents have highly expectations and involvement with their children, but fail to place demand and control on the child.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Fathers socialization value scale :

It is a self-rating scale which pertains information to identify the acceptable and objectionable behaviour regarding their children. The scale consists of 35 items which involves responsibility as a parent, child's activities and to be aware what their child is doing when they are not around. The items were then scored positively by giving a score ranging from 5 to 1 corresponds showing their degree of agreeableness and disagreeableness on five point continuum scale. The minimum to maximum scare range for acceptable and objectionable behaviour sub-scale came out to be '45-225'. The respondents were required to respond to each item on a 5-point scale ranging from strongly agree (5), agree (4), neutral (3) disagree (2); strongly disagree (1). The response 'strongly agree had been given maximum of 5 score and 'strongly disagree' had been

given minimum score of 1. The negative items were scored in reverse way.

Socialization technique scale :

It is self-rating which pertains information to identify the socialization techniques they adopt on their children whether they are too permissive or authoritative while dealing with their children, whether they punish or spank or how often they lose their temper on their children. The tool consists of 10 items. The items were then scored positively by giving a score ranging from 5 to 1 corresponds showing their degree of agreeableness and disagreeableness. The minimum lo maximum score range for acceptable and objectionable behaviour sub-scale came out to be '45-225'. The respondents were required to respond to each on a 5-point continuum scale ranging from "strongly agree (5); to agree (4); to neutral (3); to disagree (2); and to strongly disagree (l)".The response 'strongly agree' had been given maximum of 5 score and strongly disagree' had been given minimum score of 1.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The recruited sample was 200 fathers in white collar jobs. For each subject, 2 questionnaires were prepared and provided to the fathers independently of the fathers socialization value and socialization techniques: (1) the subjects were distributed equally across the various age groups i.e. 25-35 years, 35-45 years and 45-55 years, (2) the educational qualification of the subjects were also distributed i.e. intermediate, graduate, post-graduate and technical.

Demographic characteristics of the respondents :

The median age of the respondent was about 40 years, which showed that most of the respondents were middle aged and have reasonable experience of socializing children (Table 1). The average duration of marriage of the respondents was 15 years. Duration of marriage in this sample suggests that the respondents may have already two or more children. The average size white-collar job families was 5.28 which is close to the latest census that is 5.3. The family size suggests that most of the families are likely to be nuclear because in joint families the number of members is likely to be much higher. The average income of the respondents was high that is Rs. 25000/- after the six pay commission. Among the respondents, most of the respondents (66 %) had Master's degree and thirty four per cent had qualification in technical fields (engineering, M.B.B.S, etc). Thirty one per cent of the male respondents were Government officers, eleven per cent were doctors, twenty seven per cent were teachers, nineteen per cent were businessmen and twelve per cent were doing other jobs (engineer, medical representatives).

White-collar fathers apply multiple techniques to socialize

their children. They use beating, verbal abuse, grounding, reason and explanation (such as define and bad with practical examples follow an elder member, do not make a noise etc.) and favour withdrawal technique. Table 2 shows that 93 per cent of fathers gave emphasis on the uniqueness of the child by listening and talking to them whenever their child feels like. Though they favour but 90 per cent of them also laid emphasis to know where about of child friends because they opined that it is very important for them to know what their child is doing when they are not around. 71 per cent father in white-collar jobs used mainly reasons and explanation to socialize their children. According to Kohn, white-collar workers tend to use reason and explanation to socialize their children and they appear to be more selective in their use of punishment as a means of socialization. Further, it showed that 32.5 per cent of fathers used to beat or spank their children for their objectionable behaviour. During interview, fathers have opined that although they beat their children they do not use any offensive objects except hands. About 97 per cent fathers opined that they valued on obedience and 81 per cent opined that it is very important for them that their children should follow the rules.

Table 3 shows that majority (82%) of the father opined that their children should not do the disobeying behaviour (Mcoyd and Smith, 2002). 54 per cent of the father revealed that it is important for them that their child should do well in school. 63 per cent of the father opined that their child should defend himself/herself but it should not mean hitting or bullying other children (65%).

The calculated value of Chi-square in the case of age of father and educational qualifications of the fathers' child socialization technique was less than the tabulated value. The calculated value of occupation of father and child socialization technique adopted was higher than the tabulated value. Hence, it was found that there was association between fathers' occupation and child socialization techniques adopted.

The present study has been conducted on the fathers' residing in New Delhi with white collar jobs. The findings presented here indicated that father with white-collar job used two techniques such as permissive as well as authoritative patterns in socializing children. There was significant relationship between the father's occupation and child socialization. 'Scoff- a famous child psychologist stated that "children from good family atmosphere are of good behaviours and they can adjust with anyone "and" children from bad family background won't try to communicate adjust with people. The social environment involves all the person's the child meets in his life. It includes family, school and peer group. Likewise proper socialization is must for a child's proper development. The primary socializing agent is the family. This is where the

Table 1 : Demographic characteristics of the respondents		
Demographic variables	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Age		
25-35	6	6
35-45	46	46
45-55	48	48
Education		
Intermediate	–	–
Graduate	–	–
Post Graduate	66	66
Technical	34	34
Occupation		
Govt. officers	31	31
Doctors	11	11
Teachers	27	27
Businessman	19	19
Other	12	12

Table 2 : Fathers socialization values for acceptable behaviours				
Sr. No.	Acceptable behaviour	Yes	No	Unsure
1.	Persuasion	144 (72)	56 (28)	-
2.	Motivation	148 (74)	12 (6)	40 (20)
3.	Reasons and explanation	142 (71)	58 (29)	-
4.	Uniqueness	186 (93)	4 (2)	10 (5)
5.	Love	150 (75)	30 (15)	20 (10)
6.	Obedience	194 (97)	6 (3)	-
7.	Spanking	65 (32.5)	135 (67.5)	-
8.	Verbal abuse	150 (75)	50 (25)	-
9.	Favour withdrawal	90 (45)	110 (55)	-
10.	Punishment	160 (80)	40 (20)	-
11.	Rules to follow	162 (81)	8 (4)	30 (15)
12.	Supervision	170 (85)	20 (10)	12 (6)
13.	Where about of child friends	180 (90)	10 (5)	10 (5)

Table 3 : Socialization for their objectionable behaviour

Sr. No	Objectionable behaviour	Yes	No	Unsure
1.	Disobey	164 (82)	10 (5)	10 (5)
2.	Poor education	108 (54)	44 (22)	48 (24)
3.	Quarrelsome behaviour	126 (63)	74 (37)	–
4.	Bullying	130 (65)	12 (6)	8 (4)

Table 4 : Fathers' occupation and child socialization

Sr. No.	Variables	Chi-square value	Degree of freedom(f)
1.	Age of fathers and child socialization technique adopted	8.12	4
2.	Educational qualification and child socialization adopted	3.07	6
3.	Occupation of father and child socialization technique adopted	22.25**	8

** indicate significance of value at P=0.01, respectively

child character formation takes place. Parents are the role model for the children. Be comfortable, free, and friendly with the children. Parents play a pivotal role in shaping children's values and goals. But make sure that the goals are realistic and not fantasy oriented. Parent should also guide the children to face a lot of challenges in daily life and insist moral values to the children. Hence, parents should understand the needs, feeling and expectation of each child; be impartial and not compare children with others; be comfortable, free, and friendly with the children; avoid discussing about the child in their presence; a child can be expected to behave well only if his/her parents live by the values they teach. Children not only need basic needs like food, water, shelter but also beyond that child need someone to talk and hear their goals, hopes and problems. Parents should interact with their children daily. Another important need of children is friends can make vast and drastic changes in the life of children. Children seek persons of same like and dislike wishes etc., to mingle with. A proverb says "bad companies ruin good character" hence the parents should supervise closely the child's peer group. Children need a sense of "Identity"- a set of unique traits that distinguish one child from the other. Children are unique and have their own sense of expressing themselves. Hence the parents should encourage them and inculcate right principles to their children.

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