

Home environment of late adolescent boys and girls belonging to nuclear family

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ABSTRACT

The present study was an attempt to assess and compare the home environment of late adolescent boys and girls residing in nuclear family. The total sample for the present study consisted of 120 late adolescent boys and girls. The sample was selected from 6 non-coeducational government schools of Udaipur city. A preliminary survey was conducted among 11th and 12th class students to select the sample as per the delimitation of the study. To assess home environment, inventory developed by Mishra (1989) was administered. The data was collected, coded and analyzed. Frequency and percentage was computed for each category.

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a transitional period in the human life span linking childhood and adulthood. According to Hall (1904), Adolescence is a marvelous new birth, for the higher and more completely human traits are now born. Adolescence is a period of marked change in the person's cognitive, physical, psychological, and social development and in the individual's relations with the people and institutions of the social world. It is a time of evaluation of decision making, of commitment, of carving out a place in the world. There are many reasons for the increased attention to development during adolescence (Steinberg and Morris, 2001), the dramatic physical

growth and physiological changes that characterize adolescence, combined with the many individual, cognitive, social, and contextual transitions that occur during this period, conspire to make adolescence an ideal period of the lifespan to study the interaction of different developmental systems (Collins *et al.*, 2000). Family offers affection and security and operates as a role defining agency central to promoting the maturity of an adolescent and determines his future adjustment as an adult. Decline in the prevalence of the traditional family is frequently cited as a potential cause of many of the current problems that plague adolescents such as poor educational outcome, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, frustration, depression etc. Family being the first and major

agency of socialization serves as an effective agent of socialization – a process of growing up and learning the norms of society, where an adolescent acquires a few workable assumptions about the world and is apt to become a competent and useful member of society.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was an attempt to assess and compare the home environment of late adolescence boys and girls belonging to nuclear family. The total sample for the present study consisted of unmarried 60 boys and 60 girls between the age ranges of 16 to 18 years studying in non-coeducational government schools of Udaipur city within its municipal limits. Thus, making a total of 120

respondents. A preliminary survey was conducted among 11th and 12th class students to select sample as per the delimitation of the study. For the purpose of assessment, home environment inventory developed by Mishra (1989) was administered. The data was collected, coded and analyzed by using frequency and percentage.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

So from Table 1 it can be concluded that level of conformity, reward and nurturance was found to be better for boys as compared to girls. Level of protectiveness was found to be almost equal for both the sexes. Review of the background data reveals that percentage of boy single child is greater as compared to girl single child.

Table 1: Percentage distribution of sample for the their perception of positive parental childrearing behaviour in the context of gender (n=120)							
Positive parenting behaviour	Categories	Gender		Positive parenting behaviour	Categories	Gender	
		Boys (n=60)	Girls (n=60)			Boys (n=60)	Girls (n=60)
Protectiveness	A	4(6.66%)	6(10.00%)	Reward	A	3 (5.00%)	5 (8.33%)
	B	10 (16.66%)	7 (11.66%)		B	12 (20.00%)	9 (15.00%)
	C	14 (23.33%)	17 (28.33%)		C	11 (18.00%)	15 (25.00%)
	D	17 (28.33%)	15 (25.00%)		D	19 (31.66%)	15 (25.00%)
	E	10 (16.66%)	10 (16.66%)		E	10 (16.66%)	10 (16.66%)
	F	5 (8.33%)	5 (8.33%)		F	5 (8.33%)	6 (10.00%)
Conformity	A	2 (3.33%)	3 (5.00%)	Nurturance	A	6 (10.00%)	3 (5.00%)
	B	11 (18.33%)	11 (18.33%)		B	9 (15.00%)	12 (20.00%)
	C	16 (26.66%)	11 (18.33%)		C	15 (25.00%)	15 (25.00%)
	D	16 (26.66%)	17 (28.33%)		D	15 (25.00%)	14 (23.33%)
	E	10 (16.66%)	13 (21.66%)		E	10 (16.66%)	10 (16.66%)
	F	5 (8.33%)	5 (8.33%)		F	5 (8.33%)	6 (10.0%)

A= Excellent, B=Good, C= Fair, D= Average, E= Poor, F= Very low

Table 2: Percentage distribution of sample for the their perception of negative parental childrearing behaviour in the context of gender (n=120)							
Negative parenting behaviour	Categories	Gender		Positive parenting behaviour	Categories	Gender	
		Boys (n=60)	Girls (n=60)			Boys (n=60)	Girls (n=60)
Punishment	A	6 (10.00%)	4 (6.66%)	Deprivation of privileges	A	6 (10.00%)	5 (8.33%)
	B	8 (13.33%)	9 (15.00%)		B	7 (11.66%)	9 (15.00%)
	C	14 (23.33%)	17 (28.33%)		C	15 (25.00%)	15 (25.00%)
	D	16 (26.66%)	14 (23.3%)		D	17 (28.33%)	16 (26.66%)
	E	10 (16.66%)	11 (18.3%)		E	9 (15.00%)	11 (18.33%)
	F	6 (10.00%)	5 (8.33%)		F	6 (10.00%)	4 (6.66%)
Social isolation	A	3 (5.00%)	3 (5.00%)	Rejection	A	6 (10.00%)	4 (6.66%)
	B	11 (18.33%)	9 (15.00%)		B	5 (8.33%)	10 (16.66%)
	C	16 (26.66%)	17 (28.33%)		C	18 (30.00%)	12 (20.00%)
	D	14 (23.33%)	15 (25.00%)		D	15 (25.00%)	19 (31.66%)
	E	10 (16.66%)	10 (16.66%)		E	12 (20.00%)	9 (15.00%)
	F	6 (10.00%)	6 (10.00%)		F	4 (6.66%)	6 (10.00%)

A= Excellent, B=Good, C= Fair, D= Average, E= Poor, F= Very poor

Table 3: Percentage distribution of sample for their perception of neutral parental childrearing behaviour in the context of gender (n=120)

Neutral parenting behaviour	Categories	Gender		Neutral parenting behaviour	Categories	Gender	
		Boys (n=60)	Girls (n=60)			Boys (n=60)	Girls (n=60)
Control	A	4 (6.66%)	6 (10.00%)	Permissiveness	A	6 (10.00%)	6 (10.00%)
	B	11 (18.33%)	8 (13.33%)		B	7 (11.66%)	9 (15.00%)
	C	11 (18.33%)	16 (26.66%)		C	16 (26.66%)	13 (21.66%)
	D	19 (31.66%)	11 (18.33%)		D	11 (18.33%)	16 (26.66%)
	E	10 (16.66%)	15 (25.00%)		E	14 (23.33%)	11 (18.33%)
	F	5 (8.33%)	4 (6.66%)		F	6 (10.00%)	5 (8.33%)

A= Excellent, B=Good, C= Fair, D= Average, E= Poor, F= Very poor

That may be the reason that in nuclear family boys receive more rewards and had slightly high level of conformity. Besides, being single child, socio-economic status of nuclear family with boys respondents was found to be better and the percentage of mothers who were engaged in various types of occupation were less in these families. So all these may be factors which can be responsible for better nurturance in case of boys in nuclear family.

Data in Table 2 depicts that the level of punishment, social isolation and deprivation of privileges in nuclear families was found to be almost equal for both sexes. This may be because in nuclear families both the sexes are treated equally. Hence, condemn of behaviour by anyone leads to equal punishment. Security and protection of both the sexes is considered important. However, level of rejection was higher for girls as compared to boys. The reason for this may be attributed to the prevalence of traditional patriarchal families where higher demands are placed on female about their role, responsibilities, traits etc. Decisions are generally made for them they have no identity as an individual, no right to express their feelings, uniqueness or to develop autonomy. If they try to move towards one of these human longings than they are rejected.

Data in Table 3 reveals that the level of control for nuclear family boys was found to be higher as compared to girls of nuclear families while level of permissiveness was found to be higher for girls as compared to boys this may be because the percentage of eldest child of family in case of girls is more as compare to boys and at the same time so is the reason that they can express their

needs, interests, demands etc.

Conclusion :

So the present study found that there is some difference in the home environment as per the gender. In nuclear families conformity, reward, and nurturance were found to be better for boys as compared to girls while protectiveness was same for both the sexes. In nuclear families level of rejection was found to be higher for girls as compared to boys while punishment, Social isolation, and deprivation of privilege were found to be almost same for both the sexes. In nuclear families level of permissiveness for girls was found to be higher as compared to boys while level of control for boys was found to be high as compared to girls.

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