

Father- daughter relationship of urban families in Ludhiana city

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■ **ABSTRACT** : The present study was undertaken to assess the father-daughter relationship of urban families in Ludhiana city. The study was based upon the sample of 160 respondents in the age range of 13-15 years, belonging to middle socio-economic status selected purposively from government senior secondary schools, Ludhiana city. Data were collected through parent child relationship scale (PCRS) (father form) by Nalini Rao (1989). Results revealed that the majority of the daughters had an average relationship with their fathers and daughters in the age group of =15 years enjoyed a slightly better relationship with their father as compared to the other age groups.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Father, Daughter, Relationship

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Relationships are difficult to explain and understand. Until recently, most of the researches on parent-child relationships have focused on mothers and children. Now-a-days, researches show that fathers affect their children's upbringing especially daughters because children form multiple bonds with both parents. For many years, behavioural experts and popular belief held that fathers served as role models primarily for their sons. Fisher (1989) demonstrated that a woman's perception of her father's attentiveness and acceptance towards her during childhood stage is directly related to her self-esteem, self-definition, comfort with femininity, and comfort with her sexuality. A poor relationship with her father could result in poor relationships with men. She may seek-out father-figures instead of partners, or even end up being a doormat. In psychoanalytic theory, Freud postulated that the Electra complex was the most important event of girl child, an event that would have a great effect on a girl's subsequent adult life. Freud believed that the Electra complex was resolved through a process known as 'sex role identification' (Kagan and Segal, 2004) a significant period in a girl's life when she identifies with the same-sex parent and begins to develop her own identity. A father serves as a daughter's chief model for choosing a boyfriend or husband, even if on a subconscious level. If a father is warm, patient and supportive, his daughter probably will find a

significant other with the same gentle qualities (Katz and Kloet, 2010). Nielson (2007) observed that a father's absence has a negative impact on the daughter's ability to trust and relate well to the male in her life. She further emphasized that father absent daughters are usually less confident, less self-reliant and less successful in school and in their careers than father present daughter.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The sample consisted of 160 children in the age range of 13-15 years, belonging to middle socio-economic status from the randomly selected Government Senior Secondary Schools of Ludhiana city (Punjab). A list of all the Government Senior Secondary Schools in the urban areas of Ludhiana city of Punjab was procured from District Education Officer, Ludhiana (DEO). From the list, four co-educational Government schools were randomly selected to constitute the sample. A list of students aged between 13-15 years in the selected schools was prepared by ascertaining their date of birth from school records. From these lists, a sample of 160 adolescent girls were purposively selected *i.e.* n=40 from each school. The data were collected through Parent Child Relationship Scale (PCRS) (Father Form) by Nalini Rao (1989). This scale contains 10 dimensions and each dimension contains 10 statements and analyzed by calculating percentage. Scoring was done

on a five point scale by assigning 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 scores for Always, Many times, Sometimes, Rarely, Very rarely.

■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The data in Table 1 explains the distribution of total respondents across various dimensions of parent-child relationship. For the dimension protectiveness, it was found that in an age group of ≥ 13 years there were 69.49 per cent father's who were highly protective to their daughters, followed by 30.51 per cent father's who showed an average protectiveness and not even a single father was found to be less protective towards their daughters. In an age group of ≥ 14 years, data revealed that 51.92 per cent fathers were highly protective followed by 48.08 per cent fathers who showed average protection towards their daughters. None of the fathers was found to be less protective toward their daughter. Similarly, for the age groups of ≥ 15 years, 59.18 per cent fathers were highly protective, 40.82 per cent fathers were average protective and none of them were found to be less protective to their daughter.

Table 1 indicates that in an age group of ≥ 13 years, majority (74.58%) of the students received average symbolic punishment from their fathers followed by 13.56 per cent received low symbolic punishment and high symbolic punishment from their fathers were received by 11.86 per cent daughters. With regard to ≥ 14 years, 71.15 per cent of the students received that their fathers gave moderate symbolic punishment, 19.23 per cent received high symbolic punishment and 9.62 per cent low symbolic punishment from their fathers. In age group of ≥ 15 years, majority (77.5%) received average symbolic punishment from fathers followed by 16.33% daughters who thought it as high and remaining daughters found it to be low (6.12%).

Further content of the Table 1 reveals that in an age group of ≥ 13 years, very few (5.08 %) daughters expressed that their fathers were high rejecting, average rejection was expressed by 50.85 per cent respondents and 44.07 per cent of them expressed it as low rejecting. With regard to father's relations in an age group of 14 years, more than half (53.85%) of the daughters expressed them as average rejecting, 46.15 per cent low rejecting and none of them had expressed as highly rejecting fathers. When the trend was observed in an age group of ≥ 15 years, 44.90 per cent fathers were average rejecting, 40.82 per cent fathers were low rejecting and 14.28 per cent were highly rejecting toward their daughters.

On the dimension of object punishment, in the age group of ≥ 13 years more than half proportion (52.54%) of the daughter received low object punishment, 40.68 per cent average punishment and very few (6.78%) of them received high object punishment from father. In case of ≥ 14 years, 57.69 per cent of the daughter received less object punishment, 40.38 per cent average object punishment and only 1.92 per

cent of them received high object punishment. For the 15 years age group almost half (48.98 %) of daughter received average object punishment, 40.82 per cent low object punishment and 10.20 per cent received high object punishment from their father.

More than half (64.41%) of the daughter in an age group of ≥ 13 years rated that their fathers were moderately demanding, 23.73 per cent fathers were highly demanding and 11.86 per cent of them were low demanding. In case of ≥ 14 years were than half (55.77%) of the daughters perceived that their fathers were moderately demanding, 42.31 per cent highly and 1.92 per cent low demanding and in ≥ 15 years age group more than half (69.39%) of the daughters rated that their father were moderately demanding, 26.53 per cent highly and 4.08 per cent of them were low demanding. According to Badiger (1995) children felt that their mother was more protecting and loving while fathers were demanding, indifferent and neglecting.

In an age group 13 years, more than half (54.24 %) of daughter expressed that their father were moderately indifferent, 30.51 per cent as low indifferent and 15.25 per cent of them as high indifferent in behaviour. With respect to fathers relations in 14 years age group, 75.00 per cent of students expressed them as average indifferent, 17.31 per cent as low indifferent and 7.69 per cent of them as high on indifferent behaviour. In age group of ≥ 15 years, majority (61.22%) of daughters expressed that their fathers were moderately indifferent, 24.49 per cent as low indifferent and 14.29 per cent of them expressed high indifferent in behaviour toward their daughters.

Similarly 47.46 per cent daughter in age group of =13 years perceived moderated symbolic reward and 47.46 per cent perceive high symbolic reward and 5.08 per cent low symbolic reward from their parents. In case of ≥ 14 years, majority of the daughter (63.46%) perceive high symbolic reward, 36.54 per cent moderate symbolic reward from their father and in case of ≥ 15 years age group almost half (48.98%) of daughter were receiving high symbolic reward, followed by 44.90 per cent moderate reward and 6.12 per cent receive low symbolic reward from their father.

With regard to father loving nature, in an age group of 13 years, 52.54 per cent daughters felt that their fathers were highly loving, 47.46 per cent moderate loving and none of them was unloving toward their daughters, whereas in an age group of 14 years, 55.77 per cent students felt that their fathers were moderate loving, 44.23 per cent high loving and none of them was less loving toward their daughter. In an age group of 15 years, 55.10 per cent daughter felt that their father were high loving, 40.82 per cent moderate loving and 4.08 per cent were less loving in nature. Suman and Umapathy (2003) also supported these findings who reported that achievement motivation score was highest when they perceived their parents as less rejecting and more loving and demanding.

Table 1 : Age wise distribution of respondents according to the level of parent child relationship (n=160)						
PCR(dimensions)	≥13 years		≥14 years		≥15 years	
	Frequency	Per cent	Frequency	Per cent	Frequency	Per cent
Age wise distribution of respondents according to the level of parent child relationship						
Protecting						
Low	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Average	18	30.51	25	48.08	20	40.82
High	41	69.49	27	51.92	29	59.18
Symbolic punishment						
Low	8	13.56	5	9.62	3	6.12
Average	44	74.58	37	71.15	38	77.55
High	7	11.86	10	19.23	8	16.33
Rejecting						
Low	26	44.07	24	46.15	20	40.82
Average	30	50.85	28	53.85	22	44.90
High	3	5.08	0	0.00	7	14.28
Object punishment						
Low	31	52.54	30	57.69	20	40.82
Average	24	40.68	21	40.38	24	48.98
High	4	6.78	1	1.93	5	10.20
Demanding						
Low	7	11.86	1	1.92	2	4.08
Average	38	64.41	29	55.77	34	69.39
High	14	23.73	22	42.31	13	26.53
Indifferent						
Low	18	30.51	9	17.31	12	24.49
Average	32	54.24	39	75.00	30	61.22
High	9	15.25	4	7.69	7	14.29
Symbolic reward						
Low	3	5.08	0	0.00	3	6.12
Average	28	47.46	19	36.54	22	44.90
High	28	47.46	33	63.46	24	48.98
Loving						
Low	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	4.08
Average	28	47.46	29	55.77	20	40.82
High	31	52.54	23	44.23	27	55.10
Object reward						
Low	5	8.48	2	3.85	4	8.16
Average	37	62.71	33	63.46	36	73.47
High	17	28.81	17	32.69	9	18.37
Neglecting						
Low	33	55.93	27	51.92	12	24.49
Average	22	37.29	20	38.46	31	63.27
High	4	6.78	5	9.62	6	12.24
Total						
Low	9	15.25	5	9.61	5	10.20
Average	39	66.10	35	67.31	33	67.35
High	11	18.65	12	23.08	11	22.45

Similarly, it was found that 62.71 per cent of daughters in age group ≥ 13 years perceived moderately object reward, 28.81 per cent high and 8.47 per cent perceived low object reward from their father. Higher proportion (63.46 %) of the daughters in a age group of ≥ 14 years perceived moderate, 32.69 per cent have high and only 3.85 per cent daughter perceive low object reward from father. In age group of ≥ 15 years, majority (73.47%) of daughters perceived moderate object reward, 18.37 per cent high and 8.16 per cent low object reward from their father. The present findings could be substantiated with the studies of Sowid *et al.* (1981) who found that adolescents who described their parents as behaving more democratically, warmly and more encouraging earned higher grades in school than peers.

With respect to neglecting behaviour, it is clear that, in age group of ≥ 13 years, more than half (55.93%) of the daughter felt low, 37.29 per cent moderate and only 6.78 per cent felt high neglecting treatment from their father. In an age group ≥ 14 years, half (51.92%) of the daughters felt low, 38.46 per cent moderate and only 9.62 per cent of them felt high neglecting treatment from their fathers. In the age of ≥ 15 years, more than half (63.27%) of the daughters felt moderate, 24.27 per cent low and only 12.24 per cent of them felt high neglecting treatment from their fathers.

In all three groups, overall comparison showed that the highest per cent of daughters having average parent child relationship with their fathers. The average parent child relationship was high (67.35%) in ≥ 15 years age group followed by ≥ 14 year's age group (67.31%) and ≥ 13 year's age group (66.10%).

In the age group of ≥ 14 years, 23.08 per cent have high parent child relationship, in the age group ≥ 15 years 22.45 per cent have high relationship, and in age group of ≥ 13 years, 18.64 per cent daughters had high parent child relationship. It was also concluded that some daughters have low relationship with their fathers. 15.25 per cent of daughters had low father-daughter relationship in age group of ≥ 13 years, followed by ≥ 15 years age group (10.20%) and ≥ 14 years age group (9.62%).

Conclusion:

Father plays an important role in daughter's life. Adolescents perception of their father's unconditional regard was significantly related to self-esteem. The study looked at the role of father involvement and the relationship between fatherly psychological adjustment and it was revealed that

father's involvement was positively associated with children prosocial behaviour. Additionally, the study showed that fathers involvement had an effective relationship on certain dimensions like self-confidence. Early interactions with unresponsive, insensitive, neglecting parents create an unpredictable environment for the child and a feeling of unworthiness. The insecurity created in such situations prevents the child from exploring their environment, developing aggressive behaviour and anxiously shying away from beneficial activities including peer play. Overall the study depicts that for developing a healthy father-daughter relationship, it is necessary to avoid excessive use of symbolic punishment, object punishment and demanding behaviour towards the child.

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