

A Comparative Study on Parent-Child Relationship as Perceived by Parents of Haryana

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Abstract

Parent-child relationship refers to the unique and enduring bond between a caregiver and his or her child. The study was conducted in Haryana state purposively. Two districts, Hisar and Bhiwani were selected randomly from Haryana state on the basis of rural female literacy rate i.e. in between 65%. The total sample of 200 adolescent girls and 200 parents (200 mothers & 200 fathers) were selected for the study, thus making a total sample of 600. Family Environment Scale (FES) developed by Moos (1974) was used to measure the socio-economic climate of family as perceived by the adolescent and their parents. Result revealed that in Hisar district, majority of fathers' and mothers had secure relationship followed by avoidant relationship and disorganized relationship. Result further reflects that, In Bhiwani district, majority of mothers and fathers, opined that they had secure relationship followed by ambivalent relationship and avoidant relationship. Data clearly indicated secure parent-child relationship in majority of the families.

Keywords: Adolescence, parent'- child relationship, family environment, gender, development and adjustment.

Introduction:

Parent-child relationship refers to the unique and enduring bond between a caregiver and his or her child. To understand the parent-child relationship, we must look at the ways that parents and children interact with one another physically, emotionally, and socially. Many psychologists believe that the relationships between parents and children are very important.

Parent-child relationships can be biological or adopted. Biological parents and children share genetic material, while adoptive parents and children usually do not. Adoptive parent-child relationship was most often legal agreements that form a permanent parent-child relationship. The relationship between parents and their children is important to consider when discussing physical, cognitive, and social development in children.

As a focus of study, the parent-child relationship has a prominent place in the social and developmental sciences, primarily because of its influence on child outcomes across cultures and social strata (Bornstein and Cheah, 2006).

Adolescents have a poor reputation of getting along poorly with their families. The teenage boy or girl may be faced with serious problems of adjustment when there is a difference of opinions, ideals

and attitudes with their parents. Conflicts may arise between the adolescent and the parents that are difficult to resolve if neither is willing nor able to compromise. It takes all the tact and understanding of parents to handle their teenage son or daughter (Coleman, 1974).

Adolescents are often driven by careers unrelated to their aptitude and suitability often under parental and societal pressure especially with regard to traditional careers like engineering, medicine, teaching etc. The selection of a career or profession is one of the most important things of life. But it is equally difficult. The lack of guiding services, proper counseling and ever increasing unemployment has further complicated the matter.

There was almost a complete lack of career guidance to adolescents and their parents. A right choice of a career is of fundamental importance. It does depend on one’s success or failure in life. A correct choice may lead to happy, prosperous and satisfying career and life.

Objectives:

- To assess the opinion of parent-child relationship as perceived by the parents of haryana.

Material and methods:

The study was conducted in Haryana state purposively. Two districts, Hisar and Bhiwani were selected randomly from Haryana state on the basis of rural female literacy rate i.e. in between 65%. The total sample of 200 adolescent girls and 200 parents (200 mothers & 200 fathers) were selected for the study, thus making a total sample of 600. Two variables were taken for the study i.e Dependent and independent. Parents were taken as dependent variable and parent-child relationship was taken as dependent variable. Parent Child Relationship Inventory (PCRI) developed by Gerard, (1994) was used to assess parents’ attitudes toward parenting and toward their child.

Result:

4.1 Opinion about parent-child relationship as perceived by Parents

Table-1 showed that in urban area of Hisar district, majority of mothers (72%) had secure relationship followed by avoidant relationship (14%) and disorganized relationship (14%). Eighty percent of fathers had secure relationship followed by ambivalent relationship (20%). In rural area, majority of mothers (72%) had secure relationship followed by disorganized relationship (20%) and only 8 percent mothers had ambivalent relationship. Seventy four percent of fathers had secure relationship followed by disorganized relationship (14%) and ambivalent relationship (12%).

Table 1. Opinion about parent-child relationship as perceived by Parents

Sr. No.	Inventory	Category	Frequency (%) n=400			
			Hisar			
			Urban		Rural	
			Mother	Father	Mother	Father
1.	Parent Child	Secure relationship(390-312)	72(72.0)	80(80.0)	72(72.0)	74(74.0)

Relationship	Avoidant (311-234)	14(14.0)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
	Ambivalent (233-155)	0(0.00)	20(20.0)	08(8.00)	12(12.0)
	Disorganized (154-78)	14(14.0)	0(0.00)	20(20.0)	14(14.0)
		Bhiwani			
	Secure relationship(390-312)	70(70.0)	80(80.0)	58(58.0)	66(66.0)
	Avoidant (311-234)	10(10.0)	06(6.00)	0(0.00)	14(14.0)
	Ambivalent (233-155)	20(20.0)	14(14.0)	16(16.0)	12(12.0)
	Disorganized (154-78)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	26(26.0)	08(8.00)

The table showed that in urban area of Bhiwani district, majority of mothers (70%) opined that they had secure relationship followed by ambivalent relationship (20%) and avoidant relationship (10%). Eighty percent of fathers had secure relationship followed by ambivalent relationship (20%) and only 6 percent of fathers had avoidant relationship. In rural area, 58 percent of mothers had secure relationship followed by disorganized relationship (26%) and 16 percent of mothers had ambivalent relationship. Sixty six percent of fathers had secure relationship followed by avoidant relationship (14%), ambivalent relationship (12%) and disorganized relationship (8%). Data clearly indicated secure parent-child relationship in majority of the families.

Conclusion:

It was conclude that Opinion about parent child relationship by parents had average level of relationship in both the districts. Parent-adolescent relationships have been identified as the most significant influence on children’s career goals (Li & Kerpelman, 2007). Crystallization of age of adolescent girls revealed that maximum respondents started to think about career at 16-18 years of age in both the areas. Schmitt-Rodermund (2007) also reported that entrepreneurial interests developed at the age of 13 years. Majority of respondents had average level of parental encouragement in both the districts and fathers were actively involved in deciding job preferences from 10th, XIth and 12th classes for their girls in both the districts. Schoon (2002) said that both the parents and teachers focus groups believed that families’ socio economic status had impact on students’ future aspirations.

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