

A Comparative Study on Personal Value System of Adolescent Boys and Girls

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ABSTRACT

Adolescence, the period of transition, brings many changes in a young one's life. The changes are due to developments within the adolescent himself and due to the demands placed upon him by the culture in which he lives. His social concepts and their manipulations give rise to new logic of personal values, as he manipulates them within the larger context of rights and duties. This is the period in which the character of the individual takes its final shape and its value patterns become more or less stable. He formulates his own philosophy of life on the basis of these values inhibited by him and differences can be seen in this area on the basis of gender. Keeping the societal influences and concept of gender in mind, the present study was undertaken to assess the level of personal value system among adolescent boys and girls in selected dimensions. The total sample consisted of 240 adolescents, out of which 120 were adolescent boys and 120 were adolescent girls. The scale on 'Personal Value System' developed by the investigator was used to assess the level of personal value system among the adolescents. Z- Test for difference between two means was administered and a significant difference was found in the level of personal value system among the adolescent boys and girls.

Key Words : Personal value system, Adolescent boys, Adolescent girls

INTRODUCTION

Values play a very important role in the life of every individual. They encompass the entire region of human activity whether it concern feeling or willing or doing. It is the value given to various aspects of human life which helps to resolve the problems faced during lifespan.

As an individual enters into the 'adolescence' age, he tries to discard the childhood behavior patterns so as to meet the demands of this challenging stage of life. He faces not only the problem of changing his behavior, but also problems resulting from the reaction of others towards him and his behavior patterns. The value system takes a new twist and turn during this critical stage of the life span (Crow and Crow, 2008).

Asayesh and Bahramizadeh (2011) reported,

whether a change in values has been created over the past decade among male and female adolescents. The results showed a more similar attitude to the religious value, social value, public value, values of aesthetic, economic, knowledge, hedonism, power, and health in the boys and girls than in previous studies; but regarding family credit there was a significant difference between two genders. According to the authors, this is a warning of the reduction of families' power in transferring the appropriate values to each gender.

In the present times, the condition of human values in day to day life is getting deteriorated and a variety of factors are responsible for this deterioration, such as, competition for materialistic possessions, lopsided development in the country, influence of the other cultures,

unemployment, insecurity in life, misinterpretation of the principles of secularism, lack of faith in the traditional wisdom and ignorance about the philosophical aspects of different religions influencing the behaviors of people. The personal value system of adolescents also differs and shows some similarities in terms of gender. Hence, the present study focuses upon the assessment of level of personal value system of adolescent boys and girls on selected dimensions and to find out the differences on the basis of gender. The study envisages on the following objective:

– To assess and compare the level of personal value system in selected dimensions among the adolescent boys and girls.

Justification of the study:

In the present times of unprecedented changes along with dislocating traditional values and a conflict between traditional and newly evolved values, there is a universal concern in respect of erosion of values and promotion of those values which fit in with the needs of the modern times. Certainly the personal values among today's generation are lacking and this generation remains confused about their ethics and morality. The youngsters or adolescents are the future of tomorrow so the lack of these values especially among this important section of the society is a serious issue. There are several gaps in this growing body of research. Thus, the present study focuses upon the personal value system of adolescents and its relationship with interaction pattern among early and late adolescents.

Delimitations of the study:

The study was delimited to:

1. Adolescents residing within the municipal limits of Udaipur city.
2. Early adolescents between 12-14 years of age and late adolescents between 16-18 years of age and belonging to nuclear families.
3. Adolescents studying in private, co-educational English medium schools having similar infrastructural facilities.
4. Adolescents belonging to Middle Income Group families *i.e.* families having Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000 as their per capita income (According to Urban Improvement Trust, Udaipur, 2015).
5. Adolescents residing with their biological parents having at least one sibling.

6. Adolescents having no developmental disability and not belonging to any form of reorganized families.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in various Private, co-educational, English-medium schools located within the municipal limits of Udaipur city to ensure optimum personal contacts for data collection. The total sample consisted of 240 adolescents, out of which 120 were boys and 120 were girls, residing in a nuclear family set up and belonging to Middle Income Group families. For sample selection, a list of Private, Co-educational, English-medium schools was obtained from District Education Office, Udaipur. From the list, four schools having the similar infrastructural facilities were selected keeping the delimitations of the study in mind *i.e.* early and late adolescents belonging to middle income group nuclear families, having no developmental disability and not belonging to any form of reorganized families, residing with their biological parents and having at least one sibling. These schools were ready to cooperate and were interested in contributing towards the research study. The Administrators/Principals of the selected schools were personally contacted to seek permission for data collection and the purpose of the study was made clear to them. To obtain a sample of 240 adolescents, a preliminary survey was conducted and 320 proformas were distributed (80 proformas in each school) among the desired age groups in the four selected schools. From the preliminary survey, an eligible sample of 266 subjects was obtained (60-70 eligible subjects from each of the schools) and the final sample of 240 adolescents was drawn purposively as per the delimitations of the study. The rest of the subjects were discarded as they did not fulfill the criteria for sample selection. A descriptive research design was used for the study.

The scale on 'Personal Value System' was developed to assess the level of personal value system among the adolescents. It consists of close-ended questions, seeking responses on finding out the level personal values of adolescents on three point scale regarding selected values which were Honesty, Respect, Punctuality, Discipline, Obedience, Kindness, Cooperation and Truthfulness. Z-test for difference between two means was administered to compare the means of two populations *i.e.* to compare the level of personal value system in selected dimensions among the early and late adolescents under three major categories *i.e.* low,

moderate and high. The developed scale was given to five experts to improve the efficiency of the scale. The scale was evaluated for aspects such as language of the statements, clarity in the statements, format of sentences, length of the scale, appropriateness of the scales as per objectives, Scoring pattern, Terminology used and Categorization and Suitability of the target group. Their valuable suggestions and feedback were received and incorporated in the content of the scales.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Assessment of the levels of Personal Value System of adolescents on the basis on gender:

In the present study, more than half of the adolescent boys *i.e.* 52.5 per cent were found to be highly honest, 36.6 per cent were moderately honest and only 10.9 per cent were found to have low level of honesty. Among the adolescent girls, 61.7 per cent were highly honest, 29.1 per cent were moderately honesty and 9.2 per cent were found low in honesty. From the data we can say that adolescent girls were found to be more honest than adolescent boys. A study by Sucharitha (2012) studied the influence of seven independent variables *i.e.* sex, class of study, locality, subject of the study, level of institution, age and family size was studied on moral judgment of secondary school students. The study revealed that sex and class of study had no significant influence on the moral judgment of secondary school students. However, the girl students scored higher in the mean score of moral judgment.

On comparing the obtained scores on respect it was revealed that 45.9 per cent of the adolescent boys and 60.9 per cent of the adolescent girls were found to be highly respectful. The girls were found to be more

respectful than boys which may be the result of their upbringing and societal expectations from girls in this area.

Regarding punctuality, 55 per cent of the adolescent boys scored high, 32.5 per cent were moderately punctual and 12.5 per cent were low in punctuality. Among the adolescent girls, 42.5 per cent were highly punctual, 45.9 per cent were moderate and 11.6 per were found low in punctuality.

The study revealed that 47.5 per cent of the adolescent boys scored higher indiscipline, 38.3 per cent were moderately disciplined and 14.2 per cent were low in this category. In the adolescent girls, 40.9 per cent scored higher indiscipline, 46.6 per cent were moderately disciplined and 12.5 per were found low indiscipline. The discipline among adolescent boys was found to be slightly higher than the girls.

As depicted in Table 1, the adolescent girls were highly obedient with 67.5 per cent whereas the percentage for boys in this category is 53.3 per cent. Girls due to their highly respectful and socially appropriate attitudes and behavior, scored higher than boys in this category.

Regarding kindness, the responses indicated that among the adolescent boys, 57.5 per cent scored high and 10.9 per cent scored low. The remaining respondents were found to be moderately kind. Among girls, 53.4 per cent scored high, 36.6 per cent score moderate and 10 per cent scored low in this aspect. Ngai (2015) empirically proved that females scored higher in the character strengths of kindness, than their male counterparts. The study highlighted the difference in profile of strengths among adolescent boys and girls, where girls exceeded boys in the strengths of kindness, love, self-regulation and fairness etc.

Sr. No.	Aspects	Boys (n ₁ =120)						Girls (n ₂ =120)					
		Low		Moderate		High		Low		Moderate		High	
		f	%	F	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1.	Honesty	13	10.9	44	36.6	63	52.5	11	9.2	35	29.1	74	61.7
2.	Respect	14	11.6	51	42.5	55	45.9	12	10	35	29.1	73	60.9
3.	Punctuality	15	12.5	39	32.5	66	55	14	11.6	55	45.9	51	42.5
4.	Discipline	17	14.2	46	38.3	57	47.5	15	12.5	56	46.6	49	40.9
5.	Obedience	11	9.2	45	37.5	64	53.3	10	12	29	24.1	81	67.5
6.	Kindness	13	10.9	38	31.6	69	57.5	12	10	44	36.6	64	53.4
7.	Co-operation	12	10	41	34.2	67	55.8	9	7.5	51	42.5	60	50
8.	Truthfulness	13	10.9	34	28.2	73	60.9	14	11.6	50	41.8	56	46.6
	Overall	15	12.5	42	35	63	52.5	12	10	44	36.6	64	53.3

As depicted in 55.8 per cent of the adolescent boys were highly cooperative, 34.2 per cent were moderately cooperative and only 10 per cent were found to be low in cooperation. In this category, half of the adolescent girls (50%) scored high, 42.5 per cent scored average and 7.5 per cent scored low. The co-operative nature among the adolescent girls was found to be lower than the adolescent boys.

From the Table 1, it can be seen that, 60.9 per cent of the adolescent boys and 46.6 per cent of the adolescent girls scored high in this category. Thus, we can say that the habit of saying truth was found to be more prominent among the boys than their female counterpart.

In all we can say that in case of boys, 9.2 per cent to 14.2 per cent were observed in low category in different values whereas, in case of girls it was from 7.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent which indicates that the level of personal value system of boys is slightly lower than the girls. Overall it can be observed that, more than half of the adolescent boys *i.e.* 52.5 per cent were found to have high level of personal values, 35 per cent were having moderate level of personal values and only 12.5 per cent respondents had low level of personal values. Among adolescent girls, it can be seen that more than half of the respondents *i.e.* 53.3 per cent were having high level of personal values, 36.6 per cent were under the moderate level and 10 per cent were found to have low level of personal values. From the data, we can say that, on the basis of gender the personal value system of adolescent boys and girls was found to be almost similar. The gender difference in the level of personal value system was reflecting a trend of gender equality. The reason behind this could be the equal treatment and opportunities given to both the genders at home and co-educational

schooling. Specially in the present scenario, the middle class parents are very much of this nature that they are providing an equal treatment to their children without placing much importance on gender and it is about this economic class of the society, inculcating right type of values to their offsprings is utmost significance.

The results of the study are in line with the study conducted by Kataria (2018) which indicates no significant difference in the mean scores of values among adolescent boys and girls on the variable of home environment. The reason behind this result is that these days no discrimination is done between boys and girls and parents are moving towards more androgynous behavior when it comes to parenting of the child. Girls are given equal love and affection at home.

Comparison of the personal value system on the basis of Gender:

In the present study, the personal value system of adolescents was assessed on the basis of gender *i.e.* the adolescent boys and girls to find out whether there is any difference among them regarding the level of selected dimensions of the personal value system.

Table 2 depicts the values of the Z-test calculated for the personal value system of the adolescents on the basis of gender.

From the Table 2, it is evident that the mean scores obtained by the adolescent boys and girls for most of the selected dimensions were lying in the moderate range of the personal values scale. The obtained mean scores also revealed that the level of personal value system indicated similarities across half of the selected dimensions among the adolescents on the basis of gender. In the dimensions such as 'honesty', 'respect', and 'obedience' girls scored

Table 2 : Gender-wise comparison of the personal value system of adolescents

Sr. No.	Aspects	Boys (n ₁ =120)		Girls (n ₂ =120)		Z-value
		Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	
1.	Honesty	9.4	3.02	9.48	3.05	0.2
2.	Respect	9.1	2.97	9.71	3.11	2.1*
3.	Punctuality	8.76	2.93	8.46	2.85	0.75
4.	Discipline	9.39	3.02	8.96	2.95	1.1
5.	Obedience	9.81	3.1	10.1	3.13	0.72
6.	Kindness	9.65	3.06	9.39	3.0	0.66
7.	Co-operation	10.06	3.13	9.47	3.0	1.4
8.	Truthfulness	9.26	3.0	8.48	3.01	2.7**
Overall		75.43	24.25	74.05	24.08	0.44

*significant at 5 per cent level of significance, **significant at 1 per cent level of significance

slightly higher than boys as since childhood years they are reared in such a manner by the family and the society that they tend to develop these qualities so as to establish a positive and respectable image in front of others. Whereas boys on the other hand are less careful about the societal norms, beliefs and responsibilities that made them scored less in these areas as compared to the female counterpart. In the remaining dimensions such as 'discipline' and 'punctuality', boys scored higher than the girls as they are physically more active and sporty than the girls and are also less attentive towards other activities such as household chores that make them perform their tasks comparatively easier and faster than girls who are handling multiple responsibilities simultaneously. The boys also scored higher in 'kindness' and 'co-operation' as they have the tendency to provide a helping hand to others selflessly without expecting much in return.

On comparing the mean scores obtained for both the adolescent boys and girls it was revealed that there is no significant difference between the levels of personal value system of the adolescents in most of the selected dimensions *i.e.* honesty, punctuality, discipline, obedience, kindness and co-operation whereas significant differences were observed in the remaining dimensions *i.e.* 'respect' and 'truthfulness'.

On the basis of gender, the overall calculated 'Z' value (0.44) is smaller than tabulated value of 'Z' at 5 per cent level of significance. Also, across most of the selected dimensions, the mean scores of the adolescent boys and girls indicated smaller differences and therefore, no overall significant difference was indicated across the gender.

Conclusion:

From the results of the study it can be concluded that both the adolescent boys and girls showed similarities in their Personal value system that could be due to the similar child rearing and lifestyle provided by the parents to both the genders and thus represents a trend of gender equality. These days both the boys and girls are equally treated at home as well as at school and the parents and teachers do not try to inculcate values among adolescents on the basis on specific gender roles.

A study conducted by Rani *et al.* (2017) clearly highlights the similarity in profile of characteristic values of both the sexes. The study indicates such a higher

degree of similarity in value system of male-female adolescents indicating that no gender disparity exists among them. Both male and female adolescents are found to be equal in the fostering and nurturance of values which may be due to the equal treatment given to them not only by the parents but also by the society at large.

Implications of the study:

The findings of the study will help to:

- Develop the concept and significance of personal value system among adolescents.
- Provide us with the information regarding gender differences in personal value system of the adolescents.
- Develop awareness among parents and family members regarding inculcation of right type of values among adolescents.
- Develop parent-education programmes for parents and teachers to improve parent adolescent relationships, so that they can help the adolescents to develop their personal value system.
- Serve as a useful reference material for further studies in this field.

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