

Parental attitudes Perceived by College going students – Correlation between Father and Mother

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ABSTRACT

Family plays an important role in the all-round development of children. The three types of parental attitudes reported in literature are acceptance, concentration and avoidance (Roe, 1957). The formation of attitude plays a very significant role in the developmental process of individuals. The present study was conducted to know the “perceptions of adolescence about their parental attitudes”. The samples were 50 Intermediate students (25 boys and 25 girls) who were selected randomly from two Inter colleges in Tirupathi town. Family Relation Inventory (Shersy and Sinha, 2011) was used to collect the data. Results revealed that family variables play a significant role in perceived parental attitude of adolescence. In areas of parental attitude majority of (58 %) girls perceived more parental acceptance. Whereas majority boys (52 %) scored more on avoidance which showed their negative perception of parental attitude. The results help to provide counseling to parents and students to improve parent child relationship.

Key Words : Family relation, Parental attitudes, Acceptance, Concentration, Avoidance, Perceptions of adolescents

INTRODUCTION

Family plays an important role in the all-round development of children. The Formation of attitude during the developmental process of individuals decides their future. The three types of parental attitudes reported in literature are acceptance, concentration and avoidance (Roe, 1957). Acceptance means that the parents consider the child as a full-fledged member of the family who needs certain degree of independence and who has the capacity to assume responsibility. Concentration refers to attitudes of parents, over protect them through restrictions upon their efforts to explore the environment and place heavy demands upon them to perform beyond their capacities. Avoidance characterizes the disposition of parents who either neglect or reject the child. They spend little time with child. Parental attitudes depend on several environmental factors including family and society. In one study by Juang and Silbereisen (2002), with 641 adolescents observed that parental behaviors such as

warmth, involvement in their adolescents education, discussions concerning academic and personal matters with their adolescents having higher academic aspirations for their adolescents, higher beliefs in their academic capability and family adjustments. In yet another study on “Adolescents perceptions of their parents attitudes” such as parental emotional support and parent child communication, it was found that the parental attitudes were positively related to adolescents’ family adjustments (Deslandes and Potvin, 1998).

However, children do not always perceive their parents’ feedback accurately was found in research conducted by Oosterwegal and Oppenheimer (1993). Some children may perceive their parents attitudes more negatively than they really are, and sometimes even though the children can misunderstand the parent’s actual attitudes. It seems that children’s perceptions of their parents’ attitudes are more relevant to their self-perceptions and even to their academic performance than actual parent’s behavior. Ramesh (2003), conducted study

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on family relationship and adjustment among junior college students. Results revealed that there is a positive relation between parental acceptance, attitudes and overall adjustment. There is negative relation between parental concentration and avoidance and overall adjustment of students.

With this background, the present study was conducted to know correlation between parental attitudes perceived by college going students. The following are the objectives of the study.

Objectives:

- To know the socio demographic profile of respondent
- To know the perceptions of students on correlation between parental Acceptance
- To know the perceptions of students on correlation between parental Concentration
- To know the perceptions of students on correlation between parental Avoidance

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Tirupati town of Chittoor dist. The sample comprised of 50 college going students (25 boys and 25 girls) studying first year Inter from two local Inter colleges. Random sampling technique was used to select the sample. Family Relation Inventory (Sherry and Sinha, 2011) was used to collect the data. The Inventory contains 150 items classified into three patterns of perceived attitudes by children namely father and mother acceptance, father and mother concentration, father and mother avoidance. The scoring is such that every true response was assigned with one mark. The sum of scores in each area gives the type of perception. Statistical analysis was done and results are tabulated, percentages and t test were done to know the significant difference.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is evident from Table 1 that equal number of male and female were included to enable comparison. Majority (70 %) of the students belonged to nuclear family followed by 24 per cent of students' belonged to joint families, which clearly indicates changing family patterns. Majority (62 %) of sample families belonged to low income level (monthly income below 5000/-), whereas 22 per cent belonged to middle income and only 16 per cent were

from families whose family income is above 10.000/- per month.

Table 1 : Socio Demographic Profile of the Sample

Sr. No.	Type of Variable	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Gender		
	Male	25	50.00
	Female	25	50.00
	Total	50	100.00
2.	Type of Family		
	Nuclear	35	70.00
	Joint	12	24.00
	Extended	3	06.00
	Total	50	100.00
3.	Income (Rs.)		
	<5000/-	31	62.00
	5000-10.000/-	11	22.00
	>10.000/-	8	16.00
	Total	50	100.00

It is evident from Table 2 that sample students there is highly significant correlation was found between father and mother attitude towards acceptance of their children. As per the Shersy and Sinha (2011) "acceptance" means the parents consider the child as full-fledged member of the family who needs certain degree of Independence and who has the capacity to assume responsibility.

Table 2 : Perceptions of sample students on Correlation between father and mother acceptances

Sr. No.	Parental attitudes	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	r –value
1.	Mother Acceptance	50	13.52	3.845	.456* P<.001**
2.	Father Acceptance	50	14.86	3.817	

It is clear from Table 3 that the sample students perceived that there is negative correlation was found between mother and father attitudes towards Concentration on their children. As per Shersy and Sinha (2011), Concentration means putting more demands on child to perform beyond their capacity.

It is evident from Table 4 that the sample students perceived that there is a highly significant correlation was found between father and mothers attitudes towards avoidance of their children in a family. The assumption of avoidance is that students perceived the parental attitudes as emotionally neglect (or) reject them and lack

Table.3 : Perceptions of sample students on Correlation between father and mother Concentration

Sr. No.	Parental attitudes	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	r –value
1.	Mother Concentration	50	10.20	3.289	-.120 @ not Significant
2.	Father Concentration	50	8.32	3.279	

Table 4 : Perceptions of sample students on Correlation between father and mother avoidance

Sr. No.	Parental attitudes	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	r –value
1.	Mother Avoidance	50	12.84	5.068	.577**
2.	Father Avoidance	50	11.84	5.028	P< .001**

of parental attention and guidance (Shersy and Sinha, 2011).

Oosterwegal and Oppenheimer (1993) reported that some of children may perceive their parents attitude more negatively than they really are, even though the children can misunderstand the parents actual attitudes.

Therefore, proper guidance and counseling is necessary to decrease the negative perception of students with regard to their parental attitudes.

Conclusions:

- Students perceived that there is a significant correlation found between parental attitudes towards acceptance.
- With regards to parental Concentration students perceived negative correlation between parental attitudes.
- Students also perceived significant positive correlation between parental attitudes towards Avoidance.

Implications:

- This results of the study may be helpful to psychologists to know the reasons for Maladjustment and emotional problems among college students
- Counseling can be given to strengthen parent child relationship

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