

A study on parent child relationship as perceived by adolescent boys

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Adolescence is the period of transition between childhood to adulthood. It is a period when rapid physiological changes and demands for new social roles take place. The period of adolescence not only brings physical changes but psychological changes that make a child qualitatively different person. These changes affect the personality and adjustment in later life. It is widely assumed that conflict between parents and children is an inherent feature of family life in adolescence, but systematic research on the so called generation gap indicates that the phenomenon has been exaggerated in the popular media. Early adolescence may be a time of the heightened bickering and somewhat diminished closeness in the parent-child relationship, but most disagreement between parent and young teenagers are over fairly mundane matters and most teenagers and parent agree on the essentials. Therefore, the present study was undertaken to assess the parent-child relationships as perceived by Adolescent boys of Government Senior Secondary Schools of Bikaner City (Rajasthan). The total sample for the present study consisted of randomly selected 90 boys from three randomly selected Government Senior Secondary Schools. Data were collected through a standardized tool *i.e.* Parent-Child Relationship scale developed by Rao (2001). Frequency, percentage, was computed, respectively to assess each of ten dimensions of parent-child relationship of boys (12-18 years). The result revealed that most of the boys perceived their parent-child relationship under sometimes level regarding selected dimensions of parent-child relationship. Thus it can be concluded that adolescents under study felt that their parents attitude and behaviour towards them was mediocre, *i.e.* their parents were neither too much protecting, loving etc. not too much neglecting, rejecting, demanding etc.

■ **KEY WORDS**: Adolescent boys, Parent child, Physical changes, Teenagers

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Adolescence is the period of transition between childhood to adulthood. It is a period when rapid physiological changes and demands for new social roles take place. The adolescents, due to these changes often face a number of crises and dilemmas. It

is a period of development from pubescence to adulthood. In this period, child moves from dependency to autonomy. It is a period of demanding significant adjustment to the physical and social changes which distinguish childhood behaviour from adult behaviour. The period of

adolescence not only brings physical changes but psychological changes that make a child qualitatively different person. These changes affect the personality and adjustment in later life. Of the many different relationships people form over the course of the life span the relationship between parent and child is among the most important. Although, the significance of peer relationships grows during adolescence and the parent child relationship maintains its importance for the psychological development of the child as in previous eras, authoritative parenting that combines warmth and firmness seems to have the most positive impact on the youngster's development. Research shows that over time, adolescents who have been reared authoritatively continue to show more success in school, better psychological development, and fewer behaviour problems than their counterparts from other types of homes, youngsters whose parents are dis-engaged continue to show the most difficulty. Adolescent needs guidance and help in individuating, but they do not wish to be overwhelmed by adult power. Parents should understand that differences in opinion would become especially evident during adolescence. They may not like or approve of their adolescent's ideas or behaviours, but they should strive to support their teenagers' efforts to individuate even when this makes for strained relations. Contemporary adolescents have a special life style that operates independently of adults. Adolescents use this youth culture to individuate from their families and from all adults. Through their dress styles, language, musical tastes, political orientation and other values contemporary youth set themselves apart from older generation. According to the developmental psychologist, Diana Baumrind (Verenikina *et al.*, 2011), parenting is classified into four parenting styles – authoritative, authoritarian, permissive and uninvolved – all of which contribute differently to a child's schooling. Parenting during this stage is particularly challenging. Adults must discover how to help teens learn to make their own decisions but at the same time try to guide them to minimize potential harm to both themselves and others. Communications between parents and teen require patience and effort. The special hurdle is the adolescents need to individuate from the family system. For this to happen, adults must relinquish more and more control to allow their teenager to become self-regulated. Parenting during this stage is particularly challenging. Hence, the adolescence age is

commonly known as problem age due to physical and psychological changes occurring in them. Also it is important to be aware of their interactional relationship with parents which further accelerates, if not proper, the personality problems in adolescents. Several investigations have shown that conflict between parents and adolescents, especially between and mothers and sons, is the most stressful during the apex of pubertal growth (Steinberg *et al.*, 1989). Also, early maturing adolescents experience more conflict with their parents than adolescents who mature early or on time (Collins and Steinberg, 2006).

■ RESEARCH METHODS

Locale of the study :

The present study was conducted in Government Senior Secondary Schools of Bikaner (Rajasthan) city within its municipal limits to ensure optimum personal individualistic contact with the subjects for the data collection.

Sample and its selection :

The sample :

A sample of 90 Adolescent Boys of 12-18 years of age belonging to Middle Income Group families studying in Government senior secondary schools of Bikaner city were included for present study.

Procedure for sample selection :

The total sample for the present study consisted of 90 respondents randomly selected from three randomly selected Government Senior Secondary Schools. The total sample was consisted of 90 respondents (boys) selected randomly (chit system) taking 5 boys from each age group *i.e.* 12-18 years for the present study.

Tool and its description :

A standardized tool *i.e.* parent-child relationship scale by Rao (2001) was used for the present study.

Parent-child relationship scale :

Section A – Background information :

The background information was filled by the respondents in which they gave their personal and familial information.

Table 1 : Percentage wise distribution of adolescent boys (12-18 years) on each of the ten dimensions of parent-child relationship:

Levels	n = 90, Frequency = F, Percentage (%)										
	PRO F(%)	SP F(%)	REJ F(%)	OP F(%)	DEM F(%)	IND F(%)	SR F(%)	LOV F(%)	OR F(%)	NEG F(%)	PCR F(%)
Always	- (0)	- (0)	3 (3.33)	4 (4.44)	1 (1.11)	5 (5.55)	6 (6.66)	4 (4.44)	4 (4.44)	3 (3.33)	- (0)
Very often	20 (22.2)	12 (13.33)	18 (20.00)	10 (11.11)	18 (20.00)	13 (14.44)	11 (12.22)	22 (24.44)	10 (11.11)	7 (7.78)	- (0)
Sometimes	62 (68.9)	77 (85.6)	61 (67.78)	66 (73.33)	57 (63.33)	66 (73.33)	66 (73.33)	48 (53.33)	66 (73.33)	61 (67.78)	90 (100)
Rarely	8 (8.9)	1 (1.1)	8 (8.89)	10 (11.11)	12 (13.33)	6 (6.66)	7 (7.78)	16 (17.77)	10 (11.11)	18 (20.00)	- (0)
Very rarely	- (0)	- (0)	- (0)	- (0)	2 (2.22)	- (0)	- (0)	- (0)	- (0)	1 (1.11)	- (0)

PRO = Protecting, SP = Symbolic punishment, REJ = Rejecting, OP = Object punishment, DEM Demanding, IND = Indifferent, SR = Symbolic reward, LOV = Loving, OR = Object reward, NEG = Neglecting, PCR = Parent-child relationship

Section B – Parent-child relationship scale :

The subjects were asked to rate statements as to their own perception of their relationship with either father or mother on a five point scale ranging from “Always” to “Very rarely” weighted 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1, respectively on the scale points.

Analysis of data :

The ensuring description attempts to highlight the method applied by the investigator for processing and analysis the data. The data collected through parent-child relationship scale for adolescent boys and analyzed in the light of the objectives of the present study.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

As the Table 1 shows that majority of the boys (68.90%) perceived that their parents sometimes were protecting followed by 22-20 per cent very often and 8.90 per cent rarely for the same dimension. So, it can be said that, most of the boys got protected in family from dangerous situations, accidents, help them, take care of children’s health and support them. The overview of Table 1 revealed that all the boys (100%) reported that they had perceived their parent-child relationship which falls under sometime level. Therefore, it can be said that the boys sometimes perceived their parents to be protecting, rejecting, demanding, indifferent, loving, neglecting, also sometimes parents used to give symbolic and object punishment, symbolic and object reward, respectively.

Conclusion :

It can be concluded that the parents neither always

were loving, punishable, demanding etc. nor displayed the above said behaviours very rarely. It means whenever required the balanced emotions and behaviour were manifested by the parents as perceived by the boys in the present study. The findings of the above dimension can be supported by the results of the study conducted by Steinberg and Darling (1994) who found that moderate control, combined with warmth, allows for incremental and appropriate granting of psychological autonomy to children and adolescent so that they can become more competent.

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