

## A Study on the Adolescents' Expectation of Role Relation in the Family

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**ABSTRACT** The study was conducted on 400 male and female college students. Results revealed that majority of the adolescents both boys and girls have approved parental advisement on simple matters and about 50 per cent of them also approved parental interference in social movements.

### INTRODUCTION

The family as an institution, represents, one of the oldest continuing civilization where traditions have been well established. But family is a part of society, the society which has never been static but essentially a dynamic one. The social and economic changes caused by techno-scientific advances, have affected the family system. A set of new attitudes and values started emerging which are completely divorced from the traditional pattern. This is more obvious in case of modern adolescents and youths. This tender age when they are taking tide from childhood to adulthood, is very crucial. They become highly sensitive and emotional as a result they might become rebellious, crossing all the socio-cultural and familial boundaries. During this age the outer world looks more attractive and alluring than the family. On the other hand, they have tremendous energy also which may encourage them to take bold steps. Young people in their later teen rebel against their parents to a greater or lesser degree. If not guided properly they may break away from the society causing irreversible losses. All this necessitates to study the gap between the two generations so that both can understand each others' expectation. This all needs a thorough understanding of what

type of role relation in the family are expected by the adolescents. Haryana is a state where political, social, cultural and economic changes are taking place rapidly. Hence, a study was planned to explore the mind of adolescent of this State with regard to various situations which arise out of the roles played by the members in the family. The present study has the following objectives :

1. To identify the roles approved and disapproved by the adolescents in the family
2. To find out the differences if any in the opinion of adolescent girls and boys.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Four colleges of the Hisar city were selected and a sample of 200 boys and 200 girls studying in all the three academic classes of graduation in the age group of 17-19 years were randomly selected. A family relationship questionnaire was prepared by including statements related to various family relationship. The scales which were consulted while preparing questionnaire were parents Acceptance and Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ), Family Relationship Questionnaire Inventory by Sherry and Sinha (1987). In this, various roles of parents which are approved or disapproved by the adolescents were included. The measurement categories were - on score was assigned to Approve and zero score for Disapprove.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows certain situations regarding type of roles played by parents and adoles-

cents' opinion whether they approve it or not. As regards parents' advisement there are number of advises given by parents to their children. The questionnaire included vast number of situations regarding wearing of dresses, study hours, behaviour manners and mode of level of friendship where parents give number of advises. The results show that 90 per cent of male adolescents had approved the advising behaviour of their parents. Only ten per cent did not like it. However, a little more number of girl respondents disapproved it (16.5%) and comparatively lesser number of girls than

boys have approved the parental role of advising on the type of dresses that one should wear, how much time one should devote on study, how to study, appropriate behaviour manner, friendship matters means with whom to make friend, how many friends, what type of friends. This also includes advices on personal matters. Parents have been performing this role of guiding children through advising on each and every matters of their life. But now in changing trend of children's demand of freedom, the parents should change their strategy to make their advices more acceptable to their children.

**Table 1: Frequency distribution of adolescent according to their expectation of family relationship**

| Variable                                  | Approve    | Disapprove |
|---|------------|------------|
| <i>A. Parental Advisement</i>             |            |            |
| 1. On dress, study, manners, friendship   |            |            |
| Male                                      | 180 (90.0) | 20 (10.0)  |
| Female                                    | 167 (83.5) | 33 (16.5)  |
| 2. On seeking permission while going out  |            |            |
| Male                                      | 169 (84.5) | 31 (15.5)  |
| Female                                    | 156 (78.0) | 44 (22.0)  |
| 3. Not to question what they say          |            |            |
| Male                                      | 23 (11.5)  | 177 (88.5) |
| Female                                    | 38 (19.0)  | 162 (81.0) |
| 4. On character building                  |            |            |
| Male                                      | 135 (67.5) | 65 (32.5)  |
| Female                                    | 103 (51.5) | 97 (48.7)  |
| 5. On use of time                         |            |            |
| Male                                      | 156 (78.0) | 44 (22.0)  |
| Female                                    | 165 (82.5) | 35 (17.5)  |
| 6. On reading religious books             |            |            |
| Male                                      | 72 (36.0)  | 128 (64.0) |
| Female                                    | 99 (49.5)  | 101 (50.5) |
| 7. On observation of religious activities |            |            |
| Male                                      | 75 (37.5)  | 125 (62.5) |
| Female                                    | 90 (45.0)  | 110 (55.0) |
| 8. On financial support of family         |            |            |
| Male                                      | 142 (71.0) | 58 (29.0)  |
| Female                                    | 147 (73.5) | 53 (26.5)  |
| 9. Advisement on personal matters         |            |            |
| Male                                      | 172 (86.0) | 28 (14.0)  |
| Female                                    | 164 (82.0) | 36 (18.0)  |
| <i>B. Parental Interference</i>           |            |            |
| 1. In simple routine activities           |            |            |
| Male                                      | 31 (15.5)  | 169 (84.5) |
| Female                                    | 22 (11.0)  | 178 (89.0) |
| 2. In social movements                    |            |            |
| Male                                      | 99 (49.5)  | 101 (50.5) |
| Female                                    | 96 (48.0)  | 104 (52.0) |

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Seeking permission is another aspect when there can be conflict between parents and their children. Children might feel as self-sufficient and seek independence in this regard but parents most of time expect that their children though now grown-up must ask them before they go out. The results show that 84.5 per cent boys and 78 per cent girls had no objection if their parents stress upon seeking permission while going out. However, 15.5 per cent boys and 22 per cent girls did not approve it. Park and Stabby (1983) reported difference in opinion of boys and girls regarding family relationships due to differing grooming and socialization by the parents, the community, the school and the peers. Singh and Gill (1984) also observed that most of the factors which always tend to cause strained relationship between parent and child lie in the area of disciplining of child.

Traditionally, parents had been authoritarian and liked and appreciated those children who accept parents' advice and orders without questioning. As both male and female adolescents have disapproved it. However, a little more number of girls (19%) than the boys (11.5%) have approved it. The girls are more submissive than the boys by nature. Hence, they have accepted this role of parents like any other.

Parents also do give number of advises on character building, appropriate use of time,

reading religious books and participating in religious activities. The results show that only three-fourth (67.5 per cent) male and only one-half (51.5%) female are ready to accept the parental advice on character building issues. The remaining one-third boys and one half girls have disapproved it. Parental advise on appropriate use of time is acceptable to 78 per cent male and 82.5 per cent female and not acceptable to remaining 22% male and 17.5% female.

Reading religious books and performing religious activities are the issues where majority of adolescent girls and boys both have shown their resentment. Only 36 per cent male and 49.5 per cent female have approved it and rest of them could not approve the parental advise on religious matters. Respondents have accepted parental expectation with regard to their financial support to family (71% male and 73.5% female) advisement on personal matters (86% male and 82% female). As regards their movements and character aspects, many studies have already proved that parental practices are more restricting towards girls than boys. Fatima (1991) reported female children were taught to imitate the mother and male child was taught to imitate father and to learn about male supermacy. Bhogle (1991) also observed that parents believed that girls should not be treated in the same way as boys, as former have to be trained for their difficult adult role as wife and mother.

Parental interference in total activities have been divided into two categories - one in simple routine activities, another in social movements. The simple routine activities included personal hygiene, cleanliness of room, manners, habits and second one is their interaction with friends, peers or other people. Parents generally exercise their authority and interfere rigorously because they want to develop their children according to their own norms and standards. But as the results show, adolescents do not like their interference in daily routine activities specially when they say to get up early in the morning, to sleep well in time or

not to make a noise, cleanliness of clothes and room etc. Gangrade (1975) also observed that youth particularly resented parental interference in their personal matters. As regards interference in social movements, almost similar number of respondents approved and disapproved. It appears that children feel that if parents do not exercise control on their social movements, others will drag them away which may be detrimental to their academic pursuits ultimately affecting their career. Thus, parental interference in social movements though not much liked, yet not disapproved by the adolescents in their own interests. Thus, majority of the respondents had not approved parental interference on simple routine matters but parental interference in social movements.

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

With regard to advisement behaviour of parents, adolescents have approved parental advisement on type of dresses to be worn by them, study schedule, behaviour manners and type of extent of friendship. They have also approved parental stress upon seeking permission while going out of home, appropriate use of time, personal matters and also on extending financial support to family. They appreciated less the parental stress upon character building aspect and to lesser extent the stress for religious related activities. Similarly, parental interference in simple routine matters is not acceptable to adolescents whereas check on social movements is acceptable to one half and not to another half. As regards sex differences the results showed that comparatively less number of girls than boys have accepted the parental role of advising on dressing, studying, friendship, seeking permission while going out, character building and interference in personal matters. However, more number of girls than boys have accepted parental authoritative role (item 3), stress on use of time and religious activities, lesser number of girls have approved parental interference

too. Thus, it can be concluded that adolescents generally approve the parental role of guidance and advising their children, more liberally on some issues and less liberally on others. The difference between male and female respondents is that of nearly 10 per cent on most of the issues.

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