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Socio-economic Variables: A Contributing Factor for Adolescent's Personality Development

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ABSTRACT The present investigation was aimed at comparing the personalities of adolescents on the basis of socio-economic variables. Multidimensional Assessment of Personality Series (MAP Series Form-T) form for Teens had been used for the said purpose. The Test contained 20 dimensions and 7 items for each dimension to objectively assess the personality of adolescents. A list of adolescents of urban disorganized families was prepared from five randomly selected city schools of Hisar city. A sample of 45 urban respondents was randomly selected from the prepared list. Following the same procedure, a sample of 45 rural adolescents was taken from the list of adolescents of rural disorganized families of purposively selected villages of Hisar-I block. Personality was compared against family's monthly income, educational level of parents and caste of the respondents. The findings indicated significant differences in personality of adolescents on the basis of said variables. Furthermore, there were significant differences between maturity, mental health, self- control, self -sufficiency and tension level of adolescents from different casts. Moreover, adolescents on the basis of family income and parental education differed significantly on their boldness, guilt proneness, leadership, maturity, mental health, self- control, self- sufficiency and tension level.

INTRODUCTION

Family is a key factor in the development of children and adolescents. It is a vital part of the system of childhood and adolescence, as well as a system in its own right. Almost every known society has some type of family organization that is an intermediate between the individual and the larger social community. Usually family is defined as a unit of two or more persons united by marriage, blood and adoption (Desai 1994).

Family disorganization indicates detachment in those family ties, which should exist between family members to create a smooth functioning as a group. The reason may be death of father/ mother, divorce or separation between parents, abandonment by one of the parent, natural catastrophes, cohabitation, remarriages, reconstitution in families (Bharat 1994). Family disorganization with the associated factors of emotional deprivation in formative years, give rise to a multitude of personality problems which take different forms, like mental illness, delinquency, low achievement motivation, loss of adult role to follow, economic hardship, low academic achievement, poor health and nutrition, conflicts, frustration, stress, tension and destructive effect on adolescents (Demo and Acock 1988).

Predictions of specific form of deviant or damaged behavior depend upon the contributing factors to the child's personality and behavior. This included parents, their existing status, attitude and values, childrearing practices, the nature of the parent-child relationship, family education background, and social status, family's financial status and other personal and socio-economic characters give different impact towards personality of adolescents.

The present investigation tried to assess and compare the personality components of the adolescents from disorganized families. The comparison was done on the basis of few of the social and economic variables to see the differential role of these factors on their personality.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample Selection

For this study, a sample of 90 adolescents was randomly selected from purposively selected Hisar city of Haryana state. City area of the selected district was taken purposively to have urban respondents. From the selected city area, 5 senior secondary schools were selected. To have rural sample, Hisar I block was selected randomly, three villages Kaimeri, Mangali and Gangwa were selected purposively from selected block, and further three higher/senior secondary schools were selected from the selected villages.

A list of adolescent (13-18 years) boys belonging to disorganized families was prepared.

A sample of 45 adolescent boys was selected randomly from both rural and urban areas thus, making a total sample of 90 adolescent respondents. Two types of variables, that is, dependent and independent were studied under present study. The independent variables included personal and socio- economic variables. Personality aspects of adolescents were taken as dependent variable.

Tool Used

Two questionnaires were formulated. Data regarding personal and socio-economic variables were collected with the help of self structured questionnaire. Personality of adolescents was assessed by Multi Dimensional Personality Assessment form for Teens developed by Vohra (1993, 1996).

Data Collection

Data were collected separately from each school. The questionnaires were distributed to randomly selected adolescents with proper instruction. The investigator was present during the data collection and attended to the subjects, whenever they had any difficulty.

Analysis of the Data

Descriptive statistics like mean, standard deviation and Z-test were applied to see the difference in personality of adolescent's on the basis of certain socio-economic variables.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Comparison of Adolescents' Personality Aspects on the Basis of Caste

Data compiled in Table 1 contains the results related to mean differences in personality aspects on the basis of caste. Results revealed that low caste respondents scored significantly high mean values in maturity (X=6.66±1.81) level than the middle and high caste respondents.

Table 1 further highlighted that low caste respondents were significantly lower in tension (X=4.79±1.47), self- control (X=5.04b±1.45) and self- sufficiency (X=4.75b±1.93) than middle and high caste respondents. High caste respondents were significantly higher on mental health (X=6.20a±1.74) than low (X= 5.36±1.36) and middle (X=5.69b±1.70) caste respondents.

Table 1: Comparison of adolescents' personality aspects on the basis of caste N=90

S. No.	*Caste Personality aspects*	*Low n=31*	*Middle n=34*	*High n=25*
		Mean ± SD	*Mean ± SD*	*Mean ± SD*
1.	Adaptability	5.79 ±1.44	5.06 ±1.69	5.03 ±1.64
2.	Academic achievement	4.70 ±1.57	4.90 ±1.20	5.18 ±1.35
3.	Boldness	7.12 ±1.91	6.87 ±1.72	6.51 ±1.90
4.	Competition	5.25 ±1.84	5.24 ±2.00	5.78 ±1.99
5.	Enthusiasm	4.50 ±1.44	4.87 ±1.69	4.87 ±1.29
6.	Creativity	5.16 ±2.46	4.84 ±2.23	4.57 ±2.07
7.	Excitability	4.95 ±1.62	4.78 ±2.52	4.48 ±1.73
8.	General ability	2.79 ±1.44	2.90 ±1.46	3.51 ±1.46
9.	Guilt proneness	5.83 ±2.20	6.30 ±1.75	6.24 ±1.80
10.	Individualism	6.45 ±1.66	6.24 ±1.37	6.45 ±1.54
11.	Innovation	3.29 ±1.51	3.48 ±1.22	3.30 ±1.10
12.	Leadership	5.87 ±1.56	5.75 ±1.65	6.00 ±1.92
13.	Maturity	6.66^{a} ±1.81	5.36^{b}±1.36	5.69^{ab}±1.70
14.	Mental health	5.36^{b}±1.36	5.69^{b}±1.70	6.20^{a} ±1.74
15.	Morality	7.00 ±1.56	6.51 ±1.30	6.45 ±1.54
16.	Self control	5.04^{b}±1.45	5.48^{b}±1.46	6.36^{a} ±1.90
17.	Sensitivity	7.12 ±2.02	6.63 ±1.99	6.84 ±1.75
18.	Self sufficiency	4.75^{b}±1.93	5.97^{b}±2.08	6.45^{a} ±2.06
19.	Social warmth	6.16 ±1.37	5.72 ±1.90	5.24 ±1.71
20.	Tension	4.79^{b}±1.47	5.75^{a}±1.80	5.69^{ab}±1.86

Note: means with different superscript differ significantly at 5% level of significance

Mean scores differences revealed that high caste respondents were slightly better on academic achievement (X= 5.18±1.35) and general ability (X=3.51±1.46) than middle and low caste respondents. Mehta et al. (2008)[4] supported the findings and found that the caste system has its roots embedded deep inside the social structure, which results in individual psychological differences.

Comparison of Adolescents' Personality Aspects on the Basis of Parental Education

Mean differences in personality aspects of adolescents on the basis of educational level of parent or parent surrogate have been presented in Table 2. Respondents with graduated parents were significantly higher in maturity (X=6.07±1.76), self- control (X=6.94±1.51), self- sufficiency (X=6.72±1.90) and tension (X=6.38±1.68). Whereas for boldness, adolescents of graduated parents were significantly lower (X=5.72±1.40) than adolescents of up to primary level and up to 8th level educated par-

Table 2: Comparison of adolescents' personality aspects on the basis of parental education N=90

S. No.	Parental education / Personality aspects	Up to primary n=24	6th-8th n=28	9th-12th n=20	Graduation n=18
		Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD
1.	Adaptability	4.75 ±1.80	5.60 ±1.61	5.08 ±1.61	5.44 ±1.33
2.	Academic achievement	4.91 ±1.58	4.70 ±1.41	5.00 ±1.18	5.22 ±130
3.	Boldness	7.12[a]±2.00	7.37[a] ±1.54	6.65[b] ±2.03	5.72[ab]±1.40
4.	Competition	6.12 ±1.62	5.50 ±1.85	4.82 ±2.22	4.44 ±1.85
5.	Enthusiasm	4.33 ±1.57	4.67 ±1.46	5.85 ±1.63	5.22 ±1.06
6.	Creativity	3.45 ±1.53	4.94 ±2.01	5.04 ±2.33	5.57 ±2.39
7.	Excitability	4.41 ±2.48	4.57 ±2.33	5.30 ±1.30	4.72 ±1.40
8.	General ability	2.62 ±1.34	3.03 ±1.47	3.45 ±1.7	3.44 ±11.19
9.	Guilt proneness	6.80[a]±1.78	6.60[ab]±1.94	5.87[b] ±1.93	5.91[ab]±1.94
10.	Individualism	6.33 ±1.37	6.45 ±1.65	6.05 ±1.46	6.66 ±1.45
11.	Innovation	3.25 ±1.67	3.39 ±1.25	3.25 ±0.96	3.61 ±0.91
12.	Leadership	6.00[a]±1.64	5.78[a] ±1.59	5.35[a] ±2.11	4.38[b] ±1.3
13.	Maturity	5.00[c]±1.23	5.35[bc]±1.72	5.58[ab]±1.53	6.07[a] ±1.76
14.	Mental health	4.94[b]±2.10	5.65[ab]±1.92	5.93 [a] ±1.65	6.32[a] ±11.63
15.	Morality	6.70 ±1.70	6.60 ±1.39	6.45 ±1.79	6.72 ±0.75
16.	Self control	5.29[b]±1.42	5.25[b] ±1.17	5.65[b] ±1.63	6.94[a] ±1.51
17.	Sensitivity	6.79 ±2.14	5.92 ±1.82	6.05 ±1.57	6.55 ±2.14
18.	Self sufficiency	4.91[b]±2.12	5.85[ab]±2.32	6.05[ab]±1.73	6.72[a] ±1.90
19.	Social warmth	5.70 ±1.68	5.75 ±2.03	5.30 ±1.52	5.86 ±1.56
20.	Tension	4.83[c]±1.30	5.07[bc]±2.10	6.00[ab]±1.37	6.38[a] ±1.68

Note: means with different superscript differ significantly at 5% level of significance

ents (X= 7.12±2.00 and X= 7.37±1.54 respectively).

Adolescents of illiterate or primary level educated parents were significantly lower on creativity (X=3.45±1.53), maturity level (X=5.00±1.23) and higher on leadership (X=6.00±1.64) against to rest of the categories. Further, adolescents of 6th to 8th class educated parents were significantly lower on maturity level (X=5.35±1.72) than adolescents of graduated parents. Data further revealed that adolescents of up to primary level educated parents were significantly lower (X=4.94±2.10) than adolescents of intermediated (X=5.93±1.65) and graduated (X=6.32±1.63) parents on the mean scores of mental health.

Comparison of Adolescents' Personality Aspects on the Basis of Family Income

The mean difference in personality aspects on the basis of family income has been presented in Table 3. The table depicts that the respondents of low income groups differed significantly in their adaptability (X=5.73±1.57) and maturity level (X=6.43±1.73) from high income group respondent's adaptability (X=4.80±1.80) and maturity level(X=5.46±1.63).

Table 3 further indicates that children of low income group differ significantly in their general ability (X=2.60±1.27) from the adolescents of middle income group (X=3.60±1.61) and on individualism (X=5.90±1.62) from the adolescent's of high income group (X=6.73±1.33) families respectively. Further, on the basis of mean scores results showed slightly higher score of respondents from middle income group families in enthusiasm (X=5.06±1.31), creativity (X=5.30±2.35) and self sufficiency (X=6.12±2.17) against to respondents of low and high income group families.

Thus, it can be interpreted from above facts that high caste respondents with highly educated parents were high in their general ability, boldness, self sufficiency, maturity mental health and self- control level. Zhang and Postiglione (2001) found that when age was controlled, those who reported higher self-esteem tend to be students from higher SES families.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the results the investigator concludes that caste, parental educational level and family income are the contributing factors in personality of adolescents along with their family structure. Comparatively, there is a clear significant difference exist between maturity, mental health, self control, self- sufficiency and tension level of adolescents from dif-

Table 3: Comparison of adolescents' personality aspects on the basis of family income N=90

S. No.	*Family income Personality aspects*	*Low n=30*	*Middle n=30*	*High n=30*
		Mean ± SD	*Mean ± SD*	*Mean ± SD*
1.	Adaptability	5.73[a] ±1.57	5.20[ab] ±1.29	4.80[b] ±1.80
2.	Academic achievement	4.90 ±1.49	4.83 ±1.34	5.13 ±1.27
3.	Boldness	7.16 ±1.70	6.56 ±2.17	6.70 ±1.60
4.	Competition	5.13 ±1.75	5.33 ±1.91	5.86 ±2.16
5.	Enthusiasm	4.70 ±1.53	5.06 ±1.31	4.56 ±1.59
6.	Creativity	4.46 ±1.90	5.30 ±2.35	4.73 ±1.39
7.	Excitability	4.53 ±1.92	4.60 ±1.88	5.03 ±2.26
8.	General ability	2.60[b] ±1.27	3.60[a] ±1.61	3.10[ab] ±1.39
9.	Guilt proneness	6.23 ±1.67	6.10 ±1.66	6.13 ±2.31
10.	Individualism	5.90[a] ±1.62	6.50[ab] ±1.45	6.73[b] ±1.33
11.	Innovation	3.50 ±1.59	3.40 ±1.24	3.20 ±0.84
12.	Leadership	5.76 ±1.75	5.50 ±1.99	5.26 ±1.53
13.	Maturity	6.43[a] ±1.73	5.60[ab] ±1.56	5.46[b] ±1.63
14.	Mental health	5.56 ±1.58	5.66 ±1.98	5.66 ±2.02
15.	Morality	6.43 ±1.40	6.76 ±1.59	6.66 ±1.42
16.	Self control	5.16 ±1.62	6.06 ±1.74	5.83 ±1.68
17.	Sensitivity	6.90 ±1.90	6.56 ±1.79	7.06 ±1.05
18.	Self sufficiency	5.73 ±2.21	6.12 ±2.17	5.60 ±1.02
19.	Social warmth	6.10 ±1.39	5.63 ±1.75	5.26 ±1.94
20.	Tension	5.16 ±1.36	6.06 ±1.81	5.20 ±1.99

Note: Means with different superscript row wise, differ significantly at 5% level of significance

ferent casts. Moreover, adolescents on the basis of family income and parental education differed significantly on their boldness, guilt proneness, leadership, maturity, mental health, self- control, self- sufficiency and tension level. So, we can not ignore the role of socio-economic factors on the personality of adolescents from broken homes, as these situations indirectly contribute to the adolescent's all-round development. Family and community must provide financial support to disorganized families and understand the individual differences in adolescents regarding these factors.

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