



A Study on Parental Influence on the Life Skills Among Tribal Adolescents

KEYWORDS

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ABSTRACT Parents are the significant people in child development. They have dynamic roles and responsibility to type their children as socially competent individuals. Parenting is considered as a specific pattern of behavior that a parent uses to bring up a child. In this article the researcher intended to study the influence of parenting on the life skills of tribal children. A descriptive research design was used and the life skills and perceived parenting among the students were assessed with standardized tools. The result points out that there is a significant positive correlation between parenting and life skills. Hence it can be perceived that parents are needed to frame their parenting pattern with respect to the development of life skills among children.

INTRODUCTION

A parent is a significant personality who has prodigious influence on child life. Parenting is the process of promoting and encouraging the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood which is a specific pattern of behavior that a parent uses to bring up a child. Parents have dynamic role in child development. Parenting pattern of each parent is unique; they have their own attitude, behavior, believe, values and family background. Hence the result of parenting also differs. Value of parent-child relationships is meaningfully associated with social competence, learning skills and educational achievement aggressive behavior, delinquency etc. Baumrind (1971) categorized parenting approaches into three types such as authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive parenting styles. She described authoritarian parenting as preventive and punitive, authoritative parents put medium level demands on child and medium level responsiveness from parents. In permissive parenting few or no rules and little or no controls are exercised over the children.

Life skills are those psycho-social competencies which enables individuals to cope up with the challenges of daily life. WHO(1997) defined life skills as " the abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life". These skills enable individuals to understand themselves and assess the strength and weakness so that to work on their weakness and strengthen their capabilities. Ten core life skills have been recommended by WHO; they are self-awareness, empathy, critical thinking, creative thinking, decision making, problem Solving, effective communication, interpersonal relationship, coping with stress and coping with emotions.

In this article the researcher intended to analyse the relationship between life skills and perceived parenting pattern among tribal adolescents in Kerala. Tribal people are those indigenous people of the country living in the hilly forest areas. Their tradition is well bounded with the forest resources and they were satisfied with these resources in past. But the new forest policies and laws made them away from these resources. In Kerala the living condition of these people still continues as pathetic. Their culture and tradition is found very different from the outside society. Hence the parenting pattern is also expected to have the

influence of their unique culture. .

METHODOLOGY

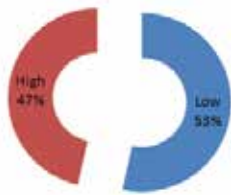
Descriptive research design was adopted for this study to describe the relationship between parenting and life skills. 40 samples were collected from both the IX and X standard students of a tribal residential school. They were administered a Life Skills Assessment tool- constructed by the Rajive Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Children's Perception of Parenting scale prepared by Dr. Anand Pyari and Dr.Raj Kumar Kalra and a self-prepared questionnaire to study the demographic characteristics. The raw data was analysed by using SPSS.

FINDINGS

The study included 48.8% of the boys and 51.3% of the girls. All the respondents were dwelling in rural area. While considering the type of family, majority (87.5%) of the respondents were from nuclear family and the rest of 12.5% only from joint family. With regard to the sub caste of the respondents, 43.8% belonged to Karimpala Community, 13.3% belonged to Mavila community, 14.8% belonged to Paniya community, 27.5% belonged to Kurichia community, and the rest of 3.8% belonged to Malavettuva community. The researcher also assessed the birth order of the respondents. 46.3% of the respondents were first borne, 33.3% middle borne and the rest of 20% were last borne children. While considering the parent's education 8.8% of the mothers and 5% of the fathers had undergone above secondary school. 41.3% of the father and 38.8% of the mothers got only primary education. 38.8% of the fathers and 45% of the mothers had finished secondary school and the rest of 2.5% of the fathers and 3.8% of the mothers had received no formal education.

Findings related with Life skills Diagram I

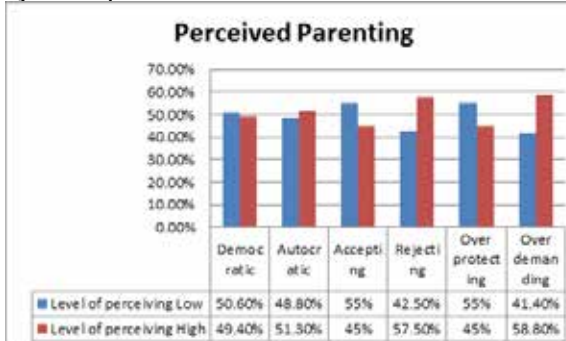
Life skills



Life skills found among the Tribal Adolescents

The above diagram shows that majority of the respondent's life skills are found low. 47 % of the respondents show high life skills. The researcher also assessed the association between life skills and the socio-demographic characteristics. There is no significant difference in life skills with regard to the socio-demographic characteristics except caste ($f=36.792, P<0.05$) and type of family ($t=2.093, P<0.05$). Those respondents from Karimpala family showed high life skills than other community; the students of Kuri- chia community showed low life skills compared to other community. With regard to type of family; those children from nuclear family showed high life skills than that of joint family.

Findings related with the parenting pattern perceived by the respondents.



The above diagram explains the level of perceiving different dimensions of parenting. It constitutes six dimensions such as democratic, autocratic, accepting, rejecting, over protecting and over demanding. In this study around half (50.06%) of the respondents perceive that the demographic dimension is high at the same time they perceive the autocratic dimension is low (48.08%). More than half (55%) of the respondents felt that the accepting is high and 42.50 % showed the rejecting is low. 55% of the respondents feels that their parents are over protecting at the same time 41.40 % perceive over demanding is low.

The researcher also analyzed the difference in perceived parenting with respect to the socio-demographic characteristics. It is revealed that boys feel more rejection ($t=3.512, p<.05$) and over protecting ($t=2.174, p<.05$) dimension. At the same time girls feel more in the dimension of over demanding. The students from nuclear family feel more rejection than those coming from joint family. The students from those alcoholic parents also feel more rejection ($t=3.079, p<.05$) than that of non-alcoholic parent's children.

Correlation between life skills and the Dimensions of Parenting

Life skills /	Correlation coef- ficient	Significance
Democratic	.319**	P<0.01, Significant
Autocratic	-.400**	P<0.01, Significant
Accepting	.313**	P<0.01, Significant
Rejecting	.180	P>0.05, Not Sig- nificant
Overprotecting	.354**	P<0.01, Significant
Over demanding	-.306**	P<0.01, Significant

It is inferred from the above table that there is a .01 level significant positive relationship between the life skills and the democratic, accepting, and over protecting dimensions of parenting. Where as a negative correlation exists between life skills and rejection and over demanding dimensions of parenting. There is no significant relationship found between life skills and the rejection.

CONCLUSION

The study well explains that majority of the tribal children possess low level of life skills. It is also found that there is a significant difference in life skills with respect to their community and type of family. It points out that nuclear families are effective place to develop life skills. In case of parenting, most of the respondents are found comfortable with their parents. nature of parents keep a significant role in perceiving parenting. On the whole there is a significant relationship between parenting and life skills. Worthy parenting style contribute to the development of life skills. To conclude it can be noted that it is the collaborative effort of parents and teachers to create suitable environment to nurture life skills among children.

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