

Perceived Parental Attitude of College Going Students in Relation to Gender



Home Science

KEYWORDS :

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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 college going students about their parental attitudes". The samples were 50 first year degree students (25 boys and 25 girls) who were selected randomly from two degree 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 college going students. In areas of parental attitude majority of (58 percent) girls perceived more parental acceptance. Whereas majority boys (52 percent) 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.

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 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 understand the perceived parental attitudes of college going students in relation to gender. The following are the objectives of the study.

Objectives:

- To know the perceptions of parental acceptance by college going students differ according to gender
- To know the perceptions of parental concentration by college going students according to gender
- To know the perceptions of parental avoidance by college going students according to gender

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 degree from two local degree 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:

Table 1 shows the socio demographic profile of the sample Table.1 Socio demographic profile of the sample

S.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 1 that equal number of male and female were included to enable comparison. Majority (70 per cent) 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 per cent) 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-2 Education and Occupation of Parents of Sample

S.No	Type of Variable	Frequency	Percentage
1	Education of Father		
	High School	9	18.00
	Intermediate	18	36.00
	Graduation	16	32.00
	Post-graduation	7	14.00
	Total	50	100.00
2	Education of Mother		
	Illiterates	13	26.00
	High School	28	56.00
	Intermediate	9	18.00
	Total	50	100.00
3.	Occupation of Father		
	Daily labour	7	14.00
	Skilled labour	24	48.00
	Small business/small farmer	13	26.00
	Secondary school teacher	6	12.00
	Total	50	100.00
3.	Occupation of Mother		
	Daily labour	19	38.00
	Skilled labour	26	52.00
	Small business/small farmer	5	10.00
	Total	50	100.00

Table-2 shows the education and occupation of parents of the sample. From table.2 it is known that with regard to fathers' education 36 per cent were educated up to intermediate level and 32 per cent of fathers were educated up to graduation level. Only 14 per cent were post graduates. Whereas with regard to mothers' education 26 per cent of mothers were illiterates followed by 56 per cent whose education qualification was up to high school level and only 18 percent were educated up to intermediate.

From table 2 it is also clear that nearly half of the parents (48 per cent of fathers and 52 percent of mothers) were skilled labors followed by daily labors and small business.

Table.3 Gender and Perceptions of Sample with regard to Parental Acceptance

S.No	Variable	Gender	Mean	SD	t-Value
1	Mother Acceptance	Boys (n= 25)	11.76	3.455	3.613 P<0.001
		Girls (n= 25)	15.28	3.434	
2	Father Acceptance	Boys (n= 25)	12.40	2.566	5.941 P<0.001
		Girls (n= 25)	17.32	3.250	

The results from table 3 reveal that there is significant difference between boys and girls in the perceptions of mother acceptance. The mean score on mothers' acceptance showed that comparatively girls perceived more parental acceptance than boys. The t-value is 3.613 which is highly significant. Whereas, regarding perceptions of students on father acceptance also similar trend was observed. Girls' perception, is more with regard to father acceptance also. As per the sherry and Sinha,2011 " acceptance" means 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.

Table.4. Gender and Perceptions of Sample with regard to Parental Concentration

S.No	Variable	Gender	Mean	SD	t-Value
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1	Mother Con- centration	Boys (n= 25)	10.56	2.959	0.863 P<0.863 (Not significant)
		Girls (n= 25)	10.40	3.524	
2	Father Con- centration	Boys (n= 25)	9.36	3.174	2.343 (P<0.05)
		Girls (n= 25)	7.28	3.103	

It is observed from the table 4 that there was no significant difference between boys and girls perceptions of their mothers' concentration. Whereas significant difference was observed between boys and girls in perceptions of fathers concentration. Based on results it is evident that boys perceived that their fathers' concentration is more on them when compared to girls. As per Sherry and Sinha (2011), concentration means putting more demands on child to perform beyond their capacity.

Table.5. Gender and Perceptions of Sample with regard to Parental Avoidance

S.No	Variable	Gender	Mean	SD	t-Value
1	Mother Avoidance	Boys (n= 25)	16.40	4.000	6.976 P<0.001
		Girls (n= 25)	9.28	3.169	
2	Father Avoidance	Boys (n= 25)	15.16	3.636	5.404 P<0.001
		Girls (n= 25)	9.52	3.743	

It is evident from table 5 that there is a highly significant difference between boys and girls in perceptions of parental avoidance. Boys perceived more avoidance from fathers and mothers than girls. The assumption of avoidance is that students perceived the parental attitude as emotionally neglect or reject them and lack of parental attention and guidance (Sherry and Sinha,2011). Girls perceived less parental avoidance than boys. Oosterwegal and Oppenheimer (1993) also reported that some children may perceive their parents attitudes more negatively than they really are, even though the children can misunderstand the parent's actual attitudes.

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

Conclusions:

- There is significant difference of parental acceptance perceived by students
- Girls perceived more parental acceptance than boys.
- There was no significant difference between boys and girls perceptions of their mothers' concentration.
- Significant difference was observed between boys and girls in perceptions of fathers concentration.
- There is a highly significant difference between boys and girls in perceptions of parental avoidance.
- Boys perceived more Parental avoidance than girls.

Implications of the study:

- 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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