



A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON PERCEIVED FAMILY CLIMATE AND SOCIAL COMPETENCE AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN SELECTED SCHOOLS AT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

Nursing

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ABSTRACT

Adolescence is the period of rapid growth between childhood and adulthood. Adolescence is the time when the individual is confronted with various families, schools; social and personal problems. Family is the most important socializing agent of child life. The research approach used was quantitative approach and the design was descriptive design. Population of the study was higher secondary school students of selected schools at Thiruvananthapuram district. The sample size was 120 students and were selected by convenience sampling technique. The data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The study findings shows that, majority (94.2%) of the children have favorable family climate, (29.2%) of the subjects had very high level social competence. The study reported a weak positive correlation between family climate and social competence ($r=0.216$, $P=.018$). The correlation coefficient value is significant ($P<0.05$) at 0.05 level and there is no association between social competence with selected socio demographic variables. This study concluded that when family climate is favorable, social competence improves.

KEYWORDS

family climate, social competence, adolescent

INTRODUCTION

The healthy development of children is crucial to the future well-being of any society. Because they are still developing, children are especially vulnerable more than adults to poor living conditions such as poverty, inadequate health care, nutrition, safe water, housing and environmental pollution. Early child development sets the foundation for lifelong learning, behavior, and health. The experiences children have in early childhood shape the brain and the child's capacity to learn, to get along with others, and to respond to daily stresses and challenges.¹

Adolescence is a transmission from childhood period to maturity in all aspects ie, physical, social, intellectual and emotional. Many research studies indicated negative psychological changes in the adolescence period which may be due to their maladjustment in their social surroundings. The social surroundings of adolescents are accumulation of parents and peers. Parental attitude and behavior and behavior towards their offspring's enforce a deep impact on the growth pattern of the child and finally on their character. Parenting styles are generally perceived as the cornerstone of socio-emotional development in childhood².

In India, as in the rest of the world, adolescents face a number of challenges to their health and well-being. The GBD(Global Burden of Disease) study, led by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), shows that mental and substance abuse disorders are on the rise among Indian youth aged 15–19, accounting for 12% of the total DALYS(Disability Adjusted Life Years) for this age group in 2015. Moreover, 13% of all adolescent health loss in India is attributable to behavioral risk factors such unsafe sex, poor nutrition, smoking, and alcohol and drug use, and exposure to many of these risks also sets the stage for the onset of non-communicable diseases in adulthood³.

Every society has its own customs and traditions, which it wants to maintain. Every individual has to follow these social values but often the adolescents think all these are out dated and they are not willing to obey. This leads to conflicts. Physical development has many social implications. Sexual development necessarily includes heterosexual orientation and they want to take part in social activities with the opposite sex. The denial of this desire often makes them discontented and restless. Thus, a number of social problems disturb the adolescent⁴. Several studies were conducted on family climate and social competence. But limited research that specifically addresses perceived family climate and social competence among adolescents. So the present study is aimed to investigate the relationship between perceived family climate and social competence among adolescents.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study followed a descriptive research design using a quantitative approach. Formal permission was obtained from institutional research committee and ethical committee and department of public instructions. Data were collected over a period of 4 weeks. A total of 120 adolescents of Government Model Higher Secondary School

Balarampuram, Higher Secondary School for girls Venganoor, VPS Higher Secondary School for boys Venganoor, Government Model Higher Secondary school, Punnamoodu. The purpose of the study was well explained to the study subjects and informed consent was obtained. The investigator maintained good interpersonal relationship with the subjects and confidentiality was maintained for each subjects. Based on the objects of the study, Socio-demographic performa, perceived family climate scale, socio competence scale was found to be appropriate and feasible to collect relevant data. The tool was translated to Malayalam and retranslated to English and its validity was established.

RESULTS

A. Sample Characteristics

Majority (95.8%) of the subjects were in the age group of 17 years and 4.2% of the subjects were in the group of 16 years. More than 65.8% of subjects were females and 34.2% were males. More than half (65.0%) of the subjects fathers had an educational qualification of high school. Majority (55.0%) of the subjects mothers had an educational qualification of high school. Nearly half 40.8% of the subjects fathers were doing elementary occupation. Majority (70.0%) of the subjects mothers were unemployed. More than 78.3% of subjects medium of instruction was English. Majority 84.2% of subjects were from nuclear family. Majority (64.2%) of subject's area of residence was rural. Majority (33.3%) of the subjects had a monthly income of up to 3908-11707. More than half (56%) of subjects were from Hindu religion.

B. Frequency And Percentage Distribution Of Family Climate Among Adolescents

N=120

Family climate	Frequency	Percentage %
Favorable	113	94.2
Unfavorable	7	5.8

C. Frequency And Percentage Distribution Of Social Competence Among Adolescents

N=120

Social competence	Frequency	Percentage %
Very high	35	29.2
High	29	24.2
Average	27	22.5
Low	20	16.6
Very low	9	7.5

D. Correlation Between Family Climate And Social Competence Among Adolescents

As the results shows there is Weak positive correlation ($r=0.216$, $P=.018$). The correlation coefficient value is significant ($P<0.05$) at 0.05 level. When family climate is favorable, social competence improves.

E. Association Between Family Climate And Social Competence Among Adolescents

N=120

Variables	Chi square	Df	p value
Age	4.365	4	0.359
Gender	8.891	4	0.064

Education of father	15.886	24	0.892
Education of mother	19.080	24	0.748
Occupation of father	21.019	32	0.931
Occupation of mother	25.009	28	0.627
Medium of instruction in school	2.801	4	0.592
Type of family	0.896	4	0.925
Place of residence	9.469	8	0.304
Family income	14.096	24	0.944
Religion	2.705	8	0.951

DISCUSSION

The present study revealed that majority (94.2%) of the children perceived favorable family climate, and 5.8% were perceived unfavorable family climate.

The present study reported that 29.2% of the subjects had very high level of social competence, 24.2% had high level of social competence, 22.5% had average, 16.7% had low and only 7.5% had very low social competence.

The study found there is a weak positive correlation between family climate and social competence ($r=0.216$, $p=.018$). The correlation coefficient value is significant ($p<0.05$) at 0.05 level. When family climate is favorable, social competence improves. The present study findings were supported by a correlational study to identify the relationship between social competence and home environment of adolescents in schools of Jalandhar and Kapurthala affiliated to Punjab school education board, Mohali. The findings show that social competence and home environment have a weak positive but significant relationship.

In the present study there was no association between social competences with selected socio demographic variables.

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