ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Education

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND SOCIAL MATURITY OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Parental Involvement generally refers to parents' investment of resources in children's schooling. Parental Involvement in education helps children grow up to be responsible members of the society. Along with Parental Involvement, Social Maturity of the students also influences the learning. The study was intended to find the relationship between Parental involvement and Social maturity of high school students. The population is from Kottayam District of Kerala. The sample consisted of 300 High School Students selected using Stratified Random sampling technique. The tools used in the study were Parental Involvement Inventory and Social Maturity Scale (Rao, 1996). The results reveal that majority of the High School Students in Kottayam District are having average level of Parental Involvement and average level of Social Maturity. There is no significant correlation between Parental Involvement and Social Maturity of the Students.

Background of the study

Life presents enormous opportunities to learn and it is difficult to limit these learning activities to any specific categories. Children starts learning the way of the group, its tradition, customs, codes of conduct, etc. from the family. A parent is the primary helper, monitor, coordinator, observer, record keeper, and decision maker for the child (Mishra, 2005). Parenting is a process that formally begins during or before pregnancy and continues through the rest of life span. Parents are children's primary advocates and their front line defense.

Parental Involvement is defined as a positive interaction between a parent and their child. Parental Involvement generally refers to parents' investment of resources in children's schooling. This Investment can take place in or outside school, with the intention of improving children's learning. Parental Involvement at home can include activities such as discussions about school, helping with homework and reading with children. Involvement at school may include parents volunteering in the class room, attending workshops, or attending school plays and sporting events. They also include school based involvement, focused on such activities as driving on a field trip, staffing a concession booth at school games, coming to school for scheduled conferences or informal conversations, volunteering at school, serving on a parent-teacher advisory board (Hoover, 1995).

Family is the first socializing agency of the child. To be effective in one's social relations, a person needs to acquire the social skills that enable one to deal with people tactfully and with understanding. One must be conscious of the interest of others, appreciative of their goals and supportive of their feelings of personal worth. Social Maturity is needed for the socialization of the individual, decline egocentricity, to develop self confidence, to develop social and human values, productivity and to develop social feelings.

Need and Significance of the study

Parental Involvement is the fundamental factor for any achieving child. The brain develops according to the quality and quantity of the stimuli the child receives from the family. The favorable environment and positive outlook of each and every members of the family mould the child to prepare the study and form good character at home.

Decades of research shows that lack of Parental Involvement leads to lower grades and test scores, poor school attendance, poor self-esteem, high rate of suspensions, increased use of drugs, alcohol and violent behavior. To overcome these factors, Parental Involvement is needed in children's life. Parental Involvement in children's learning not only improves a child's morale, attitude and academic achievement across all subject areas, but also promotes better behavior and social adjustment.

Each individual is a part of the society and has a role in the society. The interaction of the children starts from the family itself and is moving to a school which is a larger society than home. The behavior of the individual depends on maturation and learning. Maturation is helpful in the process of social adjustment. Social Maturity is also important in the process of social adjustment. In the process of acquiring Social Maturity, the student tries to reach the desired level of maturity expected by the society he lives in. Every individual want socially and emotionally mature people around them in times of crisis.

Parent-child relationships influence personality orientations and the development of psychological needs, which in turn help the child to become mature. The child grows from egocentrism in early childhood to more mature thinking with the help of effective parental involvement. This maturity supports the ability to solve problems and make, responsibly independent decisions. Parent's own social functioning and network of relationship are quite predictive of their children's social maturity. Hence the investigators felt a need to enquire whether there exists any significant relationship between Parental Involvement and Social Maturity of High School Students.

Statement of the problem

The present study is entitled as "PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND SOCIAL MATURITY OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS"

Hypotheses of the study

1) High School Students in Kottayam District belong to different levels of Parental Involvement.
2) High School Students in Kottayam District belong to different levels of Social Maturity.
3) There is significant relationship between Parental Involvement and Social Maturity of High School Students in Kottayam District.

Objectives of the study

1. To find out the level of Parental Involvement of High School Students in Kottayam District.
2. To find out the level of Social Maturity of High School Students in Kottayam District.
3. To find out the relationship between Parental Involvement and Social Maturity of High School Students in Kottayam District.

The investigators adopted survey method for collecting data by administering Parental involvement Inventory and Social Maturity Scale for high school students. The Population consisted of High School Students of Kottayam District. The sample of the study consisted of 300 High School Students of Kottayam District. The sample was selected using Stratified Random sampling technique. The tools used for collecting data were

1. Parental Involvement Inventory (prepared and standardized by the investigators), the reliability of the inventory is established by Split half method and the reliability coefficient is .86. Face validity and content validity of the tool is established.
2. Social Maturity Scale (Rao, 1996). The reliability of the tool was . 79 and the Validity of the Social Maturity Scale was based on the student's rating on the attributes of Social Maturity.

For the present study, the investigators employed Descriptive statistics such as Mean, Standard Deviation, Percentage Analysis and Pearson's Product Moment Correlation.

Analysis of Data
1. The level of Parental Involvement of High School Students in Kottayam District
The level of Parental Involvement of High School Students was identified by administering the tool titled Parental Involvement Inventory for High School Students. The investigators then classified the Parental Involvement of High School Students in to three levels using the scores. The classifications of students in to three levels were done in the following ways.

a. Students having scores above Mean + Standard Deviation possess high Parental Involvement.
b. Students having scores between Mean + Standard Deviation and Mean -Standard Deviation possess average Parental Involvement.
c. Students having scores below Mean – Standard Deviation possess low Parental Involvement.

The analysis is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Classification of the High School Students of total sample on the basis of the scores on Parental Involvement Inventory

Level of Parental Involvement	Range of scores	No. of students	Percentage
High	68-81	44	14.6
Average	45-68	200	66.6
Low	33-45	56	18.6

From table 1 it can be observed that majority of students (66.6%) have average level of Parental Involvement. The percentage of High School Students coming under each level of Parental Involvement is depicted using pie diagram.
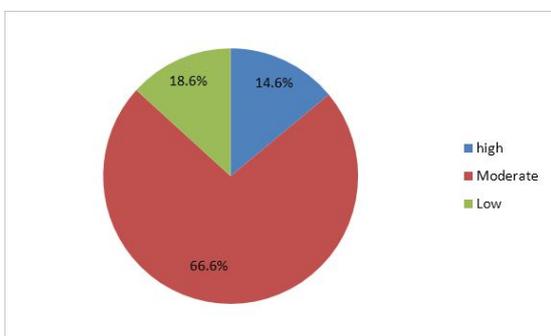

Figure 1 Percentage of High School Students in each level of Parental Involvement

1. The level of Social Maturity of High School Students in Kottayam District
The level of Social Maturity of High School Students was identified by administering the tool titled Social Maturity Scale for High School Students. The investigators classified the Social Maturity of High School Students in to three levels using the scores obtained. The classification of students in to three levels was done in the following ways.

a. Students having scores above Mean + Standard Deviation possess high Social Maturity.

b. Students having scores between Mean + Standard Deviation and Mean – Standard Deviation possess average Social Maturity.
c. Students having scores below Mean – Standard Deviation possess low Social Maturity.

Analysis of data is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 Classification of the High School Students of total sample on the basis of the scores on Social Maturity

Level of Social Maturity	Range of scores	No. of students	Percentage
High	170-194	45	15
Average	155-170	189	63
Low	135-155	66	22

Table 2 makes it clear that majority of students (63%) have average level of Social Maturity. The percentage of High School Students coming under each level of Social Maturity is depicted using pie diagram.
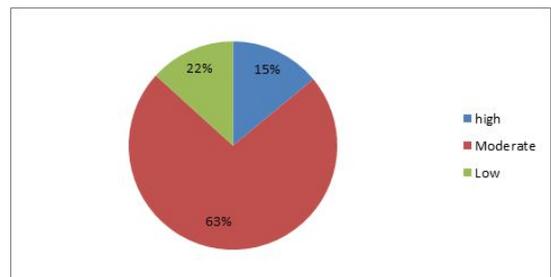

Figure 2 Percentage of High School Students in each level of Social Maturity

1. Correlation between Parental Involvement and Social Maturity of High School Students
The investigators found out the correlation between Parental Involvement and Social Maturity of High School Students. For this, descriptive statistics namely Karl Pearson's Product Moment correlation was employed. The data and result of correlation between Parental Involvement and Social Maturity of High School Students is presented table 3

Table 3 Data and result of correlation between Parental Involvement and Social Maturity of High School Students

Variables	Number of students	r value	t value	Level of significance
Parental Involvement	300	.02	0.3	p>.05
Social Maturity				

From table 3, it is clear that the t value (0.3) obtained for the r value .02 is not significant at .05 level for degrees of freedom 298. Therefore it can be concluded that there exists no significant correlation between Parental Involvement and Social Maturity of High School Students.

Discussion of results
The results emerged from the analysis of data are enlisted below.
1. Of the total sample, 14.6% students have high level of Parental Involvement, 66.6% students have average Parental Involvement and 18.6% students have low Parental Involvement. Therefore it can be interpreted that majority of students have average level of Parental Involvement.
2. Of the total sample, 15% students have high level of Social Maturity. 63% students have average Social Maturity and 22% students have low Social Maturity. Therefore majority of students have average level of Social Maturity.
3. There is no significant correlation between Parental Involvement and Social Maturity of High School Students in Kottayam District.

Conclusion of the study

From the study titled Parental Involvement and Social Maturity of High School Students, the investigator reached the result that majority of the High School Students are having average level of Parental Involvement and average level of Social Maturity. It was also found that there is no significant correlation between Parental Involvement and Social Maturity of High School Students.

Educational Implications of the Study

On the basis of major findings of the study, the following educational implications are laid out.

1. Parents as well as teachers can prepare adolescents for smoother transition and greater success in achieving the task of development.
2. Parents should also try to spend more time with each child, particularly when talking about difficult or upsetting things.
3. Awareness programmes should be given to parents to expose them to the need of sound mental health among their children.
4. The study is beneficial to the students for understanding various components of the social maturity and become a socially matured person.
5. The study helps the school authorities to organize orientation programmes for students to develop social maturity.

References

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