



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Psychology

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE HOME ENVIRONMENT OF ADOLESCENTS IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS OF PITHORAGARH DISTRICT, UTTARAKHAND

KEY WORDS: home environment, urban, rural and Pithoragarh.

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ABSTRACT
 The home environment of any individual plays a pivotal role in ensuring the psychophysiological growth and development of that individual. Hence, the present study was conducted with an aim to study the home environment of adolescents in rural and urban areas of Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand. For the purpose, a sample of 100 adolescents (50 from rural areas and 50 from urban areas) of 14-16 years of age range was collected through random sampling technique. The sample was randomly taken from the two urban and two rural government intercolleges of Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand. Home Environment Inventory (HEI) was employed on the sample. The results revealed urban home environments to be employing punishment, conformity, reward, deprivation of privileges and rejection significantly more than rural home environments. Permissiveness was found to be significantly more in rural home environments than urban home environments.

Introduction:

The area whether rural or urban has been an important socio-demographic factor which influences the various dimensions of psychophysiological growth and development, like, risk taking behaviours (Azmawati et al., 2015); experience of stress and anger (Dey et al., 2014); self-esteem, depression, social support and suicide ideation (Zhang et al., 2017) and physical performance and health status (Sampaio & Arai, 2012). This difference in areas has been found to be quite vital in effecting the entire psychological and physical status of an individual.

National Family Health Survey-IV (2015-16) factsheet revealed 70% rural households in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand. That means, only 30% area comprises urban households. The effect observed in above mentioned studies on psychophysiological aspects of individuals' health encouraged the conduction of the present research with an aim to study the home environment of adolescents in rural and urban areas of Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand.

Methodology:

For the present study a sample of 100 adolescents (50 from rural areas and 50 from urban areas) of 14-16 years of age range was collected through random sampling technique. The sample was randomly taken from the two urban and two rural government intercolleges of Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand. The sample was restricted to adolescents who were not under any medication for psychological or physiological problems and are residing in Pithoragarh district for the past ten years.

Home Environment Inventory (HEI) (Misra, 1989) consists of ten dimensions, namely, control, protectiveness, punishment, conformity, social isolation, reward, deprivation of privilege, nurturance, rejection and permissiveness was employed for the purpose. The split half reliability of HEI is 0.726 and validity is high.

Results and Discussion:

The results of the present study are tabulated below:

| Sl. no. | Name of variable | Mean | | t-values | Level of significance at 0.05 level |
|---------|------------------|-------|-------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | urban | rural | | |
| 1. | Control | 20.38 | 21.46 | 1.17 | NS |
| 2 | Protectiveness | 27.4 | 27.32 | 0.84 | NS |
| 3 | Punishment | 27.34 | 22.34 | 6.75 | S |
| 4 | Conformity | 33.12 | 29.38 | 3.81 | S |
| 5 | Social isolation | 12.86 | 13.26 | 0.29 | NS |
| 6 | Reward | 31.16 | 21.72 | 8.57 | S |

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|----------|
| 7 | Deprivation of privilege | 13.9 | 9.76 | 3.02 | S |
| 8 | Nurturance | 23.96 | 24.28 | 0.023 | NS |
| 9 | Rejection | 11.46 | 8.46 | 2.36 | S |
| 10 | permissiveness | 16.92 | 21.58 | 3.93 | S |

The results revealed above depict the differences in the home environment of adolescents in rural and urban areas. On one hand, significant differences were revealed in the dimensions punishment, conformity, reward, deprivation of privileges, rejection and permissiveness. On the other hand, no significant differences were revealed on the control, protectiveness, social isolation and nurturance dimensions of the home environment.

The significant difference was found in the punishment dimension of home environment, where, adolescents in urban areas perceived their home environment to be employing punishment more than the adolescents in rural areas for controlling undesirable behaviour. Adolescents in urban areas reported their home environment to be more demanding to conform to the norms, providing rewards, depriving them of privileges and rejecting than the adolescents in rural areas. These results are in contradiction with the results obtained from a study investigating the home environment of the adolescents in 290 families of Thrissur district, Kerala, where, no significant results on the above mentioned dimensions were revealed (Rapheal et al., 2014). Previous study found significant differences in only two dimensions, namely, control and permissiveness and further revealed that adolescents of urban areas perceived permissiveness in their home environment more than the adolescents in rural areas and in case of control dimension, rural adolescents perceived their home environment to be more controlling than the urban adolescents (Rapheal et al., 2014). The result of the present study in permissiveness dimension is partially supported by the previous study. On one hand, in the present study, significant difference is revealed in permissive dimension of home environment like the result of the previous study but on the other hand, present study reveals urban adolescents perceived their home environment to be more permissive and less controlling than their rural counterparts, which is not supported by the results of the previous study. In the present study no significant difference was revealed in the control dimension of the home environment which is not supported by the finding of the previous study.

The differences in the perception of the home environment by the adolescents of the two states, namely, Kerala and Uttarakhand can be due to the cultural variations found in the two states. Culture of any state directly influences the parenting process and the eventually the home environment of the individuals of that region.

The rural urban discrepancies in home environment occur within the cultural framework.

Conclusion:

From the results revealed above it could be concluded that the adolescents in urban areas of Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand perceived their home environment to be employing more punishment, demanding more conformity to the parents' desires and expectations, providing more rewards to strengthen or increase the probability of desired behavior, depriving them from the rights to seek love and respect and extending the experience of rejection more than their rural counterparts. Adolescents in rural areas perceived their home environment to be more permissive than their urban counterparts.

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