

To Assess the Level of Parent-Child Relationship (Father and Mother) of Adolescents by Age and Sex

Harpreet Kaur and Ashu Kalaramna

One of the most significant and intimate relationships among humans is that between parent and child. The parent child bond is unique both in its biological foundations and in the psychological meanings. For a child, it is an essential relationship that ensures survival and helps to shape his or her destiny. The child is surrounded by his family, which provides a framework within which the child may find roots, continuity and a sense of belongingness (Stater 1962). As we all know that "Fathering" is an important feature of socialization and "Mothering" symbolizes emotional support, inter- personal sensitivity and help (Farren and Ramseycraig 1977). The loving and accepting parents provide a healthy atmosphere for the child to develop his capabilities into proper channels and exercise his potentials to the maximum. So, the present study had been an effort to find out the level of parent-child relationship of adolescents according to their age and sex.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken to assess the existing levels of parent-child relationships of adolescents across various age levels (14-16 years) and two sexes. The sample was evenly distributed over age and sex. The sample comprises of 160 adolescents (80 males and 80 females) randomly selected from four high schools located in the villages of Ludhiana – I block of Ludhiana district. Parent-child relationship was recorded by using Rao's Parent-Child Relationship Scale (1989) consisting of 10 dimensions namely Protecting, Symbolic Punishment, Rejecting, Object Punishment, Demanding, Indifferent, Symbolic Reward, Loving, Object Reward and Neglecting. Items are common for both the parents except for three items, which are different in the father and mother forms due to the nature of variation in paternal and maternal relationship with children. It is a five point rating scale having weighted scores of 5,4,3,2 and 1 respectively. Mean scores

and 't' values were calculated to assess the parent-child relationship.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A good look at the Table 1 displays the existing mean level of parent-child relationship (father) across sexes and ages. Out of ten dimensions, only four dimensions showed significant differences between sexes while no dimension was reported to be differing significantly across ages.

The mean level of each dimension of parent-child relationship (father) of males and females worked out to be 39.33 ± 3.86 and 39.33 ± 4.38 for protecting, 25.96 ± 5.14 and 24.36 ± 4.65 for symbolic punishment, 22.70 ± 4.75 and 21.88 ± 4.54 for rejecting, 23.49 ± 4.58 and 22.31 ± 4.60 for object punishment, 27.44 ± 5.28 and 26.88 ± 5.32 for demanding, 31.60 ± 5.02 and 30.09 ± 4.70 for indifference, 39.23 ± 4.80 and 39.08 ± 5.44 for symbolic reward, 39.01 ± 4.01 and 40.41 ± 4.42 for loving, 34.26 ± 4.79 and 33.91 ± 5.51 for object reward and 22.14 ± 5.69 and 22.64 ± 4.92 for neglecting respectively. The calculated t-values indicated that fathers were significantly higher in favour of punishment (both symbolic as well as object) to their sons as compared to their daughters. Similarly, the attitude of fathers was significantly more indifferent towards sons in comparison to daughters. Fathers were more loving towards daughters in comparison to sons. Though the scores were generally higher in lower age group yet there was no significant differences between the two age groups.

The data presented in Table 2 reveals the contrary results of parent-child relationship (mother) as compared to parent-child relationship (father). The mean level of different dimensions of parent-child relationship (mother) between males and females were 39.74 ± 4.72 and 40.35 ± 4.96 for protecting, 24.5 ± 5.26 and 24.48 ± 5.59 for symbolic punishment, 21.50 ± 5.46 and 21.95 ± 4.08 for rejection, 22.04 ± 4.90 and 21.49 ± 5.23 for object punish-

Table 1 : Mean ($\pm$ S.D.) Parent-Child relationship (Father) scores of adolescents by age and sex

Respondents (Sex/age)	n	Dimensions of Parent-Child Relationship (Father)									
		Protecting (A)	Symbolic punishment (B)	Rejecting (C)	Object punishment (D)	Demanding (E)	Indifferent (F)	Symbolic reward (G)	Loving (H)	Object reward (I)	Neglecting (J)
Male											
1. 14-15	40	39.63±4.16	26.40±6.57	23.00±5.87	23.70±5.25	27.88±5.81	31.70±5.85	39.38±4.61	39.06±4.51	34.80±4.68	21.73±5.70
2. 15-16	40	39.03±3.58	23.53±4.82	22.40±3.34	23.29±4.08	27.00±4.72	31.50±5.27	39.08±5.05	38.96±4.75	33.73±4.89	22.55±5.72
3. Total	80	39.33±3.86	25.96±5.14	22.70±4.75	23.49±4.58	27.44±5.28	31.60±5.02	39.23±4.80	39.01±4.60	34.26±4.79	22.14±5.69
Female											
4. 14-15	40	39.78±4.31	25.13±5.10	21.68±4.24	20.93±4.16	26.30±5.46	29.78±5.14	39.18±4.77	41.08±4.18	34.13±5.56	23.03±5.03
5. 15-16	40	38.88±4.47	23.60±4.08	22.08±4.87	23.28±4.37	27.45±5.18	30.40±4.40	38.98±6.10	39.75±4.61	33.70±5.53	22.25±4.85
6. Total	80	39.33±4.38	24.36±4.65	21.88±4.54	22.10±4.36	26.88±5.32	30.09±4.70	39.08±5.44	40.41±4.42	33.91±5.51	22.64±4.92
Total											
7. 14-15	80	39.70±4.21	25.76±5.18	22.34±5.13	22.31±4.60	27.09±5.66	30.74±5.24	39.28±4.66	40.07±4.38	34.46±5.12	22.38±5.38
8. 15-16	80	38.95±4.02	24.56±4.54	22.24±4.15	23.28±4.74	27.23±4.93	30.95±4.84	39.03±5.56	39.36±4.65	33.71±5.19	22.40±5.26
9. Overall	160	39.33±4.12	25.16±5.27	22.29±4.65	22.79±5.20	27.16±5.27	30.84±4.32	39.15±5.11	39.42±4.52	34.09±5.15	22.39±5.31
t-value											
Sr.No.3 & 6	0.00 ^{NS}	2.06 ^{**}	1.12 ^{NS}	1.97 ^{**}	0.67 ^{NS}	1.96 ^{**}	0.18 ^{NS}	1.96 ^{**}	0.43 ^{NS}	0.59 ^{NS}	
(Between sexes)											
t-value											
Sr.No.3 & 6	1.15 ^{NS}	1.50 ^{NS}	0.14 ^{NS}	1.31 ^{NS}	0.17 ^{NS}	0.26 ^{NS}	0.316 ^{NS}	0.50 ^{NS}	0.92 ^{NS}	0.02 ^{NS}	
(Between age groups)											
** - at 5% level of significance *** - at 1% level of significance NS - non significant											

** - at 5% level of significance *** - at 1% level of significance NS - non significant

Table 2: Mean ($\pm$ S.D.) parent-child relationship (mother) scores of adolescents by age and sex

Respondents (Sex/age)		Dimensions of Parent-Child Relationship (Mother)									
		Protecting (A)	Symbolic punishment (B)	Rejecting (C)	Object punishment (D)	Demanding (E)	Indifferent (F)	Symbolic reward (G)	Loving (H)	Object reward (I)	Neglecting (J)
<i>Male</i>											
1. 14-15	40	39.65±4.49	25.40±6.24	22.20±6.15	23.00±5.32	27.98±5.88	31.05±3.21	38.50±4.51	40.65±4.11	35.45±4.34	21.08±4.80
2. 15-16	40	39.83±5.00	23.60±3.93	20.80±4.63	21.08±4.28	27.18±5.26	31.40±4.61	38.53±4.95	39.73±4.06	33.85±5.61	20.75±4.64
3. Total	80	39.74±4.72	24.50±5.26	21.50±5.46	22.04±4.90	27.08±5.54	31.23±3.93	38.51±4.70	40.19±4.09	34.65±5.05	21.41±4.77
<i>Female</i>											
4. 14-15	40	40.78±3.83	25.22±5.93	21.98±4.23	20.78±4.59	27.85±4.63	32.50±3.84	38.53±5.10	38.23±4.34	34.88±4.91	22.03±5.24
5. 15-16	40	39.93±5.89	23.63±5.15	21.93±3.97	22.20±5.78	27.12±4.72	32.80±4.91	38.88±6.44	39.48±5.01	33.55±5.35	20.53±4.00
6. Total	80	40.35±4.96	24.48±5.59	21.95±4.08	21.49±5.23	27.49±4.66	32.65±4.37	38.70±5.78	38.85±4.54	34.21±5.15	21.28±4.67
<i>Total</i>											
7. 14-15	80	40.21±4.19	25.36±6.05	22.09±5.25	21.89±5.06	27.41±5.28	31.78±3.57	38.51±4.78	39.44±4.19	35.16±4.62	22.05±4.88
8. 15-16	80	39.88±5.43	23.61±4.55	21.36±4.32	21.64±5.09	27.15±4.97	32.10±3.77	38.70±5.71	39.60±4.66	33.70±4.45	20.64±4.15
9. Overall	160	40.04±4.84	24.49±5.41	21.73±4.81	21.76±5.06	27.28±5.11	31.94±3.19	38.61±5.25	39.52±4.76	34.43±5.09	21.34±4.70
<i>t-value</i>											
Sr.No.3 & 6 0.80 ^{NS}		0.02 ^{NS}	0.59 ^{NS}	0.69 ^{NS}	0.51 ^{NS}	2.16 ^{**}	2.24 ^{NS}	1.96 ^{**}	0.55 ^{NS}	0.17 ^{NS}	
(Between sexes)											
<i>t-value</i>											
Sr.No.3 & 6 0.43 ^{NS}		2.07 ^{**}	0.96 ^{NS}	0.31 ^{NS}	0.32 ^{NS}	0.55 ^{NS}	0.23 ^{NS}	0.23 ^{NS}	2.04 ^{***}	1.97 ^{**}	
(Between age groups)											

** - at 5% level of significance *** - at 1% level of significance NS - non significant

ment, 27.08 ± 5.54 and 27.49 ± 4.66 for demanding, 31.23 ± 3.93 and 32.65 ± 4.37 for indifference, 38.51 ± 4.70 and 38.70 ± 5.78 for symbolic reward, 40.19 ± 4.09 and 38.85 ± 4.54 for loving, 34.65 ± 5.05 and 34.21 ± 5.15 for object reward and 21.41 ± 4.77 and 21.28 ± 4.67 for neglecting respectively. It is further evident from table that mothers attitude towards daughters was more indifferent in comparison to the same towards sons while mothers were more loving towards sons as compared to daughters. The above finding contradicted the finding of Steinberg (1987) who found that at adolescence, intensity of mother-daughter relationship is greater and the father-daughter relationship is least intense. As far as protecting, punishment, rejection, reward etc. were concerned; mothers were keeping both sons and daughters at same level. But age showed its impact on symbolic punishment higher to the lower age group, object reward higher to lower age group and neglecting higher to lower age group, object reward higher to lower age group and neglecting higher to lower age group.

Thus, the analysis highlighted significant

differences as far as fathers and mothers were concerned in relation to parent-child relationships.

KEYWORDS Adolescents. Parent-child Relationship. Punishment

ABSTRACT This study investigated the level of parent-child relationship (Father and Mother) of adolescents by age and sex. One sixty adolescents of age group (14-16 yrs.) of both the sexes of Ludhiana-I block (of Ludhiana district) were selected from four high schools located in villages and evenly distributed. Parent-child relationship was assessed by using Rao's Parent-Child Relationship Scale. Analysis of the data reveals that fathers were significantly higher in favour of punishment to their sons as compared to their daughters whereas the mother's attitude towards daughters was more indifferent as they were more loving towards sons as compared to daughters.

REFERENCES

- Farren, D. and Ramseycraigh T.: Child development: Infant day care and attachment behaviour towards mothers and teachers. *Child Dev.*, **48**: 1112-16 (1977).
- Rao, N.: *Parent-child Relationship Scale*. National Psychological Corporation, Agra (1989).
- Stater, P. F.: Paternal behaviour and personality of the child. *J Gen. Psy.*, **101**: 53-68 (1962).
- Steinberg, L.: Recent research on the family at adolescence: The extent and nature of sex difference. *J Youth Adol.*, **16**: 191-97 (1987).

Authors' Address: Harpreet Kaur and Ashu Kalaramna, Assistant Professor Department of Human Development, College of Home Science, P.A.U. Ludhiana, Punjab, India

Address all correspondence to: Ashu Kalaramna