

The Cultural Construct of Troubles with Boys in India

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ABSTRACT Familism in contrast to individualism is a significant reality for Indian families. Family organisation in India rests on age and sex hierarchy with the boys, men and older people being ascribed a higher status. There are usually clear demarcations of the roles and responsibilities between men and women within families. This is a reality that a child even in 21st century India learns and it is even expressed in various rituals, ceremonies, kin terminology and socialization practices. Hence, with this cultural construct boys develop their attitudes, beliefs, perceptions and act accordingly. The amount of restrictions, pressures and regulations are there for girls are enormous, whereas for boys, all freedom, no restrictions and oppositions at all for their behaviour, actions and thoughts in any stages of their lives. Boys are overprotected, over cared and at the same time given total independence in the family. The immediate outcome is visible through boy's immaturity, dependency and learned helplessness owing to varied types of problems for themselves, their families and for the society in general.