



Status of Socio-economic Status and Parental Occupation on the Emotional Well Being of Adolescents Girls'

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



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Abstract

This study aimed to investigate the role of the occupational status of fathers on the adjustment of adolescent girl children. It was hypothesized that adolescent girl children of service-class fathers would be better adjusted than those of business-class fathers. A sample was incidentally selected, consisting of 80 adolescent girl children whose fathers were in the service class and 80 adolescent girl children whose fathers were in the business class, drawn from a larger population of average socio-economic status. The Adjustment inventory (Sinha & Singh, 1993) was utilized to determine the adjustment level of the adolescents, while the SES Scale (Ajawani & Verma, 2009) was used to ascertain the socio-economic status of the adolescents' families. The findings of the study confirmed the stated hypothesis. Adolescent girl children of service-class fathers demonstrated "truly better

adjustment" compared to adolescent girl children of business-class fathers.

Key Words

Occupational Status, Adolescent, Adjustment.

Introduction

Adjustment is an important dimension in one's life, specially during adolescent age. There are many factors affecting the adjustment of adolescents. Occupational status is one of them. The modern achievement-oriented society puts a heavy weightage on socio-economic status of a family which can only be achieved highly through occupational status of one or both the parents. Here, it is quite reasonable to believe that occupational status of parents has its key role in adjustment of their adolescent children.

Symonds (1968) defines adjustment as a satisfactorily reaction of an organism to his environment. Adjustment is basically a purposive transactional process as the individual lives in his family setting, advances educationally, pursues vocations, engages in social relationships, matures emotionally and grows into a both physically and mentally healthy adult. It is an ongoing process that continues throughout the life although pattern of living system is always changing. Consequently, it is inevitable that the quality of adjustment varies with time and situation. A person will sometimes experience moments of unhappiness and even despair. The effectiveness of adjustment is measured in terms of how well a person copes with his changing circumstances. Good adjustment of individuals indicates a kind of inner harmony in the sense that they are satisfied with

themselves and have harmonious relationship with people with whom they are associated (Hurlock, 1978).

In a study by Botsari and Makri (2003) structural equation modeling was used to investigate the effects of maternal unemployment on mental health of mothers and children's functional status ($n = 205$ mother-child dyads) in Athens, Greece. Depression and anxiety were used as indices of mothers' mental health. Children's self-perception in the domains of academics, peer interactions, parent-child relationships, physical appearance, and behavioral conduct, as well children's global self-worth, were used as indices of their daily functioning. Maternal unemployment yielded a direct negative effect on her mental health and child's perceived scholastic competence. Support has also been found that maternal depression functions as mediator in the relationship between material unemployment and child's functional status.

Nihira et al. (1985) found that family cohesion and parental control influenced the adolescent's psychological adjustment. These aspects highly varied with occupational status of parents.

Problem & Hypothesis

1. The first problem of the research pertained to role of parental occupational status in adjustment of their adolescent children.

It has been hypothesized that parental occupational status would play its vital role in adjustment of their adolescent children. More specifically, adolescent children of service-class fathers would be better adjusted than those of business-class fathers.

2. The second problem of the research pertains to impact of occupational status of parents on adjustment of their adolescent children. In other words, the problem is whether adolescents of the families in which father is service class and mother is housewife, differ from adolescent children of the families in which father is business class and mother is housewife, in regard to their adjustment.

It has been hypothesized that occupational status of parents brings in differential nurturing environment in family. Family environment of service-class fathers normally is well disciplined and open than business-class fathers. The educational level of service-class father is generally higher than that of business-class father which also may leave its positive imprint on adjustment capacities of their adolescent children. Hence, it is hypothesized that occupational status of parents would exert its vital impact on adjustment of adolescents in the family. More specifically, it is assumed that adolescent children of service-class father would show better adjustment than those of business-class father.

Methodology

Sample

A final sample of 80 female adolescent-girl children of business-class fathers and 80 adolescent girl-children of service-class fathers were selected randomly from a larger population of average socio-economic status families.

Tools

Socio-Economic Status Scale (Ajawani & Verma, 2009) and Adjustment Inventory for School Children (Sinha & Singh, 1993) were used for the purpose.

Procedure

Firstly, socio-economic status scale was administered on a larger population of families of Raipur city and on the basis of Q_1 and Q_3 statistics only those of average socio-economic status (scoring between Q_1 and Q_3) were screened out of 80 adolescent-girl children of business-class fathers and 80 adolescent girl-children of service-class fathers were selected randomly and were administered adjustment inventory. Care was taken to select only those families in both the groups wherein mothers were purely housewives.

Results & Discussion

Table 1: Statistical Details on Adjustment Score

Group	n	M	? x ²	t ratio	Probability
Business-Class Fathers	80	17.125	823.6	2.111	P<.05
Service-Class Fathers	80	15.875	1139.8		

It is clear from Table 1 that average adjustment score of adolescent girl children of service-class fathers (M=15.875) is better than those of business-class fathers (M=17.125), since lower score on the adjustment inventory is indicative of better adjustment. The obtained t ratio (t = 2.111) is significant at .05 level of significance for 158 degrees of freedom and provides empirical ground to conclude that adolescent girl children of service-class fathers are truly better adjusted than those of business-class fathers.

Any family's sociometry depends upon occupational status of parents also. The family wherein the father is service-class has differential interaction pattern with his housewife and children than business-class fathers. The service-class fathers has enough opportunities to interact with his family members due to more time available to his disposal after he comes from his job while business-class fathers does not enjoy such opportunities frequently which restricts his interactions with family members. The long duration of working makes business-class fathers more fatigued than service-class fathers. Normally, it is also observed that service-class fathers are more educated than business-class fathers and, this brings lots of differences in their quality of interactions with their children and other family members. They are more cheerful and positive in their interactions with their children and enjoy better harmonious relationship with their wives which in turn gives a more of security in their children.

All these factors can be attributable to better adjustment of adolescent children of service-class fathers than those of business-class fathers.

Conclusion

Occupational status of fathers significantly impacts the emotional and social adjustment of adolescent girls. Daughters of service-class fathers demonstrated notably better adjustment, likely due to:

- Structured lifestyle.
- Emotional availability of parents.
- Stronger family bonding and discipline.

The study confirms the vital role of family environment shaped by parental occupation in adolescent development.

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