



IMPACT OF PARENT AND PEER ATTACHMENT ON SELF-CONCEPT OF ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract: The relationships that adolescents have with their parents and peers are critical in shaping their self-concept. Understanding and addressing these dynamics can be vital for promoting healthy self esteem and self worth in adolescents. The present study was carried out with an aim to study the impact of parent and peer attachment on self-concept among adolescents with reference to gender and locality. A random sample of 120 adolescents consisting of 60 from urban area (30 boys and 30 girls) and 60 from rural area (30 boys and 30 girls) were selected. Parent and peer attachment was assessed using Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment by Gullone and Robinson (2005). Self-concept of adolescents was assessed using Robson Self-Concept Questionnaire by Robson (1989). The collected data was statistically analyzed using Mean, Standard deviation, t-test and Pearson's correlation coefficient. The results showed no significant difference in parent and peer attachment between boys and girls. Also, no significant difference was found in parent and peer attachment based on locality. Self-concept was found to be similar for boys and girls. Based on locality, it was found that the urban adolescents had better self esteem than the rural adolescents. A significant relationship was noted between parent and peer attachment and self-concept.

Key words: Parent and peer attachment, self-concept, adolescents, gender.

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a stage of human development that occurs between childhood and adulthood. It is marked by physical, psychological and social changes, including identity formation and increased independence. It usually begins around the onset of puberty and continues into the late teens or early twenties. Adolescents rely on and are influenced by a variety of people in their lives, but two important figures stand out - parents and peers.

Every parent-adolescent relationship is unique, and the key is to adapt and communicate effectively while recognizing that this is a phase of change and growth for both parents and adolescents. Parents play a significant role in helping them navigate the challenges of this stage. As adolescents progress into this stage peers become increasingly important. Friendships and peer groups provide a sense of belonging, support, and social validation. Daisy and Tung (2011) states that peer attachment scores significantly go higher during late adolescence suggesting a rise in the importance of peers.

Self-concept refers to an individual's perception and understanding of themselves. Self-concept is often defined as the image we have of our bodies, capabilities, impressions, etc. (Bailey, 2003). During adolescence, the development of self-concept undergoes significant changes and challenges. The results of a study by Aziz, Amin and Khan (2021) on 500 respondents revealed that peer attachment has an affirmative impact on self-esteem. Deković and Meeus (1997) state that positive self-concept and warm supportive parenting contribute to satisfactory peer relations.

Good parent and peer relationships contribute to the formation of individual identity and self-concept among adolescents. Hence, the present study was conducted to find the impact of parent and peer attachment on self-concept among adolescents.

Objectives:

1. To compare parent and peer attachment and self-concept between adolescent boys and girls.
2. To compare parent and peer attachment and self-concept between urban and rural adolescents.
3. To study the relationship between parent and peer attachment and self-concept among adolescents.

Hypothesis:

1. There will be a significant difference in parent and peer attachment and self-concept between boys and girls.
2. There will be a significant difference in parent and peer attachment and self-concept between urban and rural adolescents.
3. There will be a significant relationship between parent and peer attachment and self-concept among adolescents.

METHOD OF THE STUDY

Survey method was used for conducting the study.

Population of the study:

The population for the study was adolescent boys and girls from schools in Chennai city for urban sample and from schools in Cumbum, Theni District of Tamil Nadu for rural sample.

Sample:

A random sample of 120 adolescents consisting of 60 from urban area (30 boys and 30 girls) and 60 from rural area (30 boys and 30 girls) were selected.

Tools:

1. To assess parent and peer relationship the 'Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment' (IPPA) – Revised by Gullone and Robinson (2005) was used.
2. To assess self-concept the 'Robson's Self-Concept Questionnaire' by Robson (1989) was used.

Procedure:

The investigator sought the permission from the principals of various schools. A rapport was established with the students and explained the purpose of the study. The questionnaires were distributed and directions were given as to orient the students to the questionnaire. The collected data was analyzed and interpreted using Arithmetic Mean and Standard Deviation, Student's 't' test and Karl Pearson's Co-efficient of Correlation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the study on the impact of parent and peer attachment on the self-concept among adolescents are presented and discussed with respect to the objectives.

Objective No.1: To compare parent and peer attachment and self - concept between adolescent boys and girls.

Table 1: Comparison of parent and peer attachment and self - concept between boys and girls

Variables	Gender	N	Mean	Standard deviation	't' value	Level of significance
Parent - peer attachment	Boys	60	244.03	33.384	0.643	NS
	Girls	60	248.16	45.161		
Self - concept	Boys	60	54.95	11.655	0.745	NS
	Girls	60	56.42	9.973		

NS – Not Significant

From table 1 it is observed that the mean values of parent and peer attachment for boys and girls is 244.03 and 248.16 respectively. As the calculated 't' value (0.643) is found to be lesser than the table value (1.96), the difference is not significant.

Table 1 further reveals that the mean values of self-concept between boys and girls are 54.95 and 56.42 respectively. Therefore, it can be concluded that no significant difference in self-concept exists between boys and girls as the calculated 't' value (0.745) is found to be lesser than the table value (1.96). This result is supported by a study done by Waghmare (2018) who found no difference in self-concept between male and female college students.

Objective No.2: To compare parent and peer attachment and self - concept between urban and rural adolescents.

Table 2: Comparison of parent and peer attachment and self-concept between urban and rural adolescents

Variables	Locality	N	Mean	Standard deviation	't' value	Level of significance
Parent - peer attachment	Urban	60	250.56	30.349	1.202	NS
	Rural	60	241.95	46.841		
Self - concept	Urban	60	59.80	11.600	4.562	0.01
	Rural	60	51.47	8.177		

NS – Not Significant

Results presented in table 2 shows that the mean values of parent and peer attachment for urban and rural adolescents is 250.56 and 241.95 respectively. This indicates that there is no significant difference in parent and peer attachment between urban and rural adolescents as the calculated 't' value (1.202) is found to be lesser than the table value (1.96).

Further, observing the results presented in table 2, it is seen that the mean values of self-concept between urban and rural adolescents is 59.80 and 51.47 respectively. From the results it is evident that there is a significant difference in self-concept between urban and rural adolescents as the calculated 't' value (4.562) is greater than the table value (1.96) at 1% level of significance. Urban adolescents have higher self-concept compared to rural adolescents.

Objective No.3: To study the relationship between parent and peer attachment and self-concept among adolescents.

Table 3: Relationship between parent and peer attachment and self-concept

Variables	Self - concept	Level of significance
Parent - peer attachment	0.544	0.01

Pearson correlation coefficient was computed to assess the linear relationship between parent and peer attachment and self-concept. Results presented in table 3 indicates a significant relationship between parent and peer attachment and self-concept among adolescents at 1% level as the correlation 'r' value is 0.544.

Findings:

1. There is no significant difference in parent and peer attachment between boys and girls.
2. There is no significant difference in parent and peer attachment between urban and rural adolescents.
3. There is no significant difference in self-concept between boys and girls.
4. There is a significant difference in self-concept between urban and rural adolescents. Urban adolescents have better self-concept than rural adolescents.
5. There is a significant relationship between parent and peer attachment and self - concept among adolescents.

CONCLUSION

Studying parent-peer relationships and their impact on self-concept is a valuable area of research in psychology and sociology. This study would be helpful in identifying ways to improve parent-peer relationships to foster a healthier self-concept, and developing interventions for individuals who may struggle with self-esteem issues. This area of study can provide valuable insights into the complex interplay between familial and social influences on an individual's self-concept, ultimately contributing to our understanding of human development and well-being.

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