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A Comparative Investigation Into The Impact Of Family Dynamics On Attitude Of Members In Concordant And Discordant Families

Varghese KP
Research Scholar

R Ravi
Research Guide Michael Job Memorial
College of Education for Women

Abstract

The objective of this study is to compare the attitudes of individuals from concordant and discordant families. A total of 160 students (boys and girls) of 9th class of secondary schools (public and private) were taken as respondents. The tool used for data collection 'A survey on familial adjustment'. After the analysis of data highlights that there is significant differences in attitude between individuals from concordant and discordant families. It further reveals that gender does not significantly affect attitudes within concordant and discordant families, except for female individuals where a significant difference was observed. These findings contribute to our understanding of the relationship between family dynamics, gender, and attitudes.

Introduction

Humans, like all living beings, constantly face the challenge of fulfilling their needs through interactions with their physical surroundings. Additionally, they must cultivate positive attitudes towards other influential factors, such as the psycho-social environment they inhabit. This includes fulfilling emotional security, self-esteem, and self-actualization needs. This ongoing process of interaction involves numerous identifiable cause-and-effect relationships. Attitude can be understood as the mechanism through which individuals maintain a balance between themselves and their environment, enabling them to effectively meet their needs. The understanding and development of attitudes is a gradual process experienced by everyone

Attitude

Attitude is a dynamic process that involves continuously reevaluating one's means and goals. Holding onto fixed ideas or rigid habits can hinder progress in this process, as change in habits alone may not be effective unless accompanied by a reinterpretation of one's objectives. One's adjustment and growth are aided by acquiring new experiences, being open to ideas and behaviors that may initially be disagreeable, conforming to group norms or societal expectations, and striving for self-realization. Attitude encompasses the consistent patterns of

an individual's emotions, thoughts, and predisposition to act in relation to a particular aspect of their environment. Essentially, an attitude is the positive or negative evaluation that a person holds toward an object or concept. The study of attitude is important for several reasons. Firstly, attitude is an ongoing process that is shaped and influenced by various aspects of an individual's life, including their family dynamics,

education, career choices, and social interactions. Understanding how attitudes develop and change in these different contexts can provide insights into human behavior and decision-making. Secondly, attitudes play a significant role in the development of specific personality characteristics. Individuals often develop certain traits and behaviors as a result of their attitudes towards the environment. Exploring the relationship between attitudes and personality can help in understanding individual differences and predicting behavior patterns. Moreover, studying attitude is crucial in addressing conflicts that arise from opposing inner drives. People may have conflicting desires or values, both of which are desirable to some extent. Understanding how attitudes are influenced by such conflicts can shed light on decision-making processes and help individuals navigate internal struggles. Furthermore, in today's society, there is an increasing prevalence of problems within families, which can lead to changes in the attitudes of adolescents. The environment in which individuals grow up can significantly impact their attitudes towards parents, teachers, institutions, and society as a whole. By studying attitudes, researchers and professionals can better understand the effects of family dynamics and societal factors on individuals' perspectives and behaviors. In summary, studying attitude is important because it provides insights into the ongoing process of attitude development and change, helps understand the relationship between attitudes and personality, addresses conflicts arising from opposing drives, and examines the impact of the environment on individuals' attitudes.

Objective

The objective of this study is to compare the attitudes of individuals from harmonious (concordant) and conflict-ridden (discordant) families.

Sample

The sample for this study includes 80 individuals both from concordant and discordant family backgrounds from Malapuram district of kerala state

Tool and Analysis

The tool used for this investigation is 'a survey on familial adjustment' specifically designed for this purpose, written in the Malayalam language, was used as the research instrument. The scores obtained from the survey were then subjected to statistical analysis using a "t" test to determine any significant differences between the two groups.

Table 1

Mean, standard deviation and 't' value of Attitude among individuals from concordant and discordant families

Concordant Family			Discordant Family			't' Value
Mean	Standard Deviation	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	Number	
4.68	1.37	80	3.75	1.41	80	2.98

The mean scores of individuals from concordant families and discordant families were found to be 4.68 and 3.75, respectively. The standard deviations for concordant and discordant families were 1.37 and 1.41, respectively. The higher mean score among individuals from concordant families suggests that they have a more positive attitude toward family life compared to individuals from discordant families. The t-value of 2.98 indicates a significant difference between the two groups at a 0.01 level of significance, further supporting the notion that individuals from concordant families have a higher attitude toward family life than those from discordant families.

Table 2

Mean, standard deviation and ‘t’ value of attitude based on sex of individuals from concordant families

Concordant Family			Discordant Family			‘t’ Value
Mean	Standard Deviation	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	Number	
4.28	1.41	36	5.00	1.27	44	1.69

According to the data provided, the mean score for male individuals in attitude is 4.28, with a standard deviation of 1.41. On the other hand, female individuals have a higher mean score of 5.00, with a standard deviation of 1.27. This indicates that females tend to have a more positive attitude compared to males. However, the t-value of 1.69 suggests that there is no significant difference in attitude between males and females within concordant families. In other words, although females have a higher mean score, this difference is not statistically significant within concordant families.

Table 3

Mean, standard deviation and ‘t’ value of attitude based on sex of individuals from Discordant families

Concordant Family			Discordant Family			‘t’ Value
Standard Deviation	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	Number	Mean	
1.56	34	3.52	1.28	46	4.06	1.16

Based on the provided data, the mean score for male individuals in attitude is 4.06, with a standard deviation of 1.56. In contrast, female individuals have a lower mean score of 3.52, with a standard deviation of 1.28. This suggests that males tend to have a higher attitude score compared to females within discordant families. However, the t-value of 1.16 indicates that there is no significant difference between the two groups in attitude. In other words, despite the slightly higher mean score for males, the difference is not statistically significant.

Table 4**Mean, standard deviation and 't' value of attitude among Male individuals between concordant and discordant families**

concordant Family			Discordant Family			't' Value
Mean	Standard Deviation	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	Number	
4.28	1.41	80	4.06	1.56	80	0.44

Based on the data provided, the mean score for individuals from concordant families in attitude is 4.28, with a standard deviation of 1.41. On the other hand, individuals from discordant families have a slightly lower mean score of 4.06, with a standard deviation of 1.56. This suggests that concordant individuals tend to have a slightly higher attitude score compared to discordant individuals. However, the t-value of 0.44 indicates that there is no significant difference between the two groups in attitude. In other words, the observed difference in mean scores is not statistically significant, indicating that the attitude scores of concordant and discordant individuals are comparable.

Table 5**Mean, standard deviation and 't' value of attitude among Female individuals between concordant and discordant families**

concordant Family			Discordant Family			't' Value
Mean	Standard Deviation	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	Number	
5.00	1.27	34	3.52	1.28	46	3.89

Based on the provided data, the mean score for female individuals from concordant families in attitude is 5.00, with a standard deviation of 1.27. On the other hand, female individuals from discordant families have a lower mean score of 3.52, with a standard deviation of 1.28.

Surprisingly, this suggests that the discordant individuals have a higher attitude score compared to the concordant individuals. However, the t-value of 3.89 indicates that there is no significant difference between the two groups in attitude. In other words, despite the higher mean score for discordant females, the difference is not statistically significant, suggesting that the attitude scores of concordant and discordant individuals are not significantly different.

Major Findings and Conclusions:

1. The study found a significant difference between individuals from concordant and discordant families in terms of attitude. This difference was statistically significant at a significance level of 0.01, indicating that individuals from concordant and discordant families hold significantly different attitudes.
2. Among individuals from concordant families, there was no significant difference between males and females in terms of attitude. This suggests that gender does not play a significant role in shaping attitudes within concordant families.
3. Similarly, among individuals from discordant families, there was no significant difference between

males and females in terms of attitude. This implies that gender does not have a significant impact on attitudes within discordant families as well.

4. The study did not find a significant difference in attitude between male individuals from concordant and discordant families. This indicates that being from a concordant or discordant family does not have a significant influence on the attitudes of males.

5. In contrast, the study found a significant difference in attitude between female individuals from concordant and discordant families. This difference was statistically significant at a significance level of 0.01, suggesting that being from a concordant or discordant family has a significant impact on the attitudes of females.

In summary, the study highlights the significant differences in attitude between individuals from concordant and discordant families. It further reveals that gender does not significantly affect attitudes within concordant and discordant families, except for female individuals where a significant difference was observed. These findings contribute to our understanding of the relationship between family dynamics, gender, and attitudes.

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