

Impact of Parent-Child Relationship on the Development of Personal Problems of the Children

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Abstract:-An empirical study was conducted with a view to examine the effect of parent-child relationship on the development of children's personal problems. The nine problem areas selected for assessment were-Illogical fears, Depression, Health & Constitution, Beauty Consciousness, Manners & Habits, Present & Future Career, Personal Handicap, Frustration and Feeling of Inferiority. In the light of the results based on 't' test it was concluded that healthy parent-child relationship had positive impact on children's personal problems such as manners & habits and present & future career orientation. In context of illogical fear and depression, unhealthy parent-child relationship was found more conducive. In respect of health & constitution, beauty consciousness, personal handicaps, frustration and feeling inferiority, parent-child relationship did not show any differential effect.

Introduction:-Parent-child relationship reflects the degree of attachment children have with their parents. It plays a very important role in shaping the children's personality. It does not develop suddenly and unheralded, but emerges in a consistent series of steps starting from birth. The infant develops the capacity to form a special relationship with parents because of the constant contact. Healthy parent-child relationship have positive implications for the child's later cognitive and social adaption. It favourably shapes the child's later behaviour. A healthy relationship with parents facilitates rather than stifles exploration, curiosity and mastery of the social and physical environment. It increases the child's trust in other social relationships and permits the development of values, mature problem solving attitude particularly during adolescence period.

Reverse is the case if there is lack of congenial parent-child relationship. It hinders the social, emotional and cognitive development of the child.

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Personal Problems – Personal problems are problems that originate within the person or his/her situation. It refers to any situation in which there is a novel or unknown characteristic to be ascertained. Thus it refers to behaviours when the unknown characteristics, which can lead to solution, are neither obvious nor easily ascertained (Reber et al; 2009).

In the present empirical study nine personal problems have been included. They are – 1. Illogical Fears, 2. Depression, 3. Health and Constitution, 4. Beauty Consciousness, 5. Manners and Habits, 6. Present and Future Career, 7. Personal handicaps, 8. Frustrations and 9. Feeling of failure and inferiorities.

A brief description of each personal problem is as follows–

1. Illogical fears – It is a persistent fear of an object or situation in which the sufferers commits to great lengths in avoiding despite the fear, typically disproportional to the actual danger posed, often being recognized as irrational, tied to traumatic events. It includes several types of phobias like phobia of closed places, heights etc.
2. Depression – It is defined in the normal individual as a state of despondency characterized by feelings of inadequacy, lowered activity and pessimism about the future.
3. Health and Constitution – Health issue occurs when the normal metabolism of the body fails or is altered due to pollutant, pathogen or other means that cause health problem which are considered as disease. Here specific focus includes problems as diverse as identifying the etiology of illness, understanding the conditions and correlates of well being, developing techniques for prevention and treatment of illness and improving health care delivery systems.
4. Beauty Consciousness – It is another personal problem in which adolescent child may be too much or too less conscious about his or her beauty leading to problematic symptoms in different walks of life. In fact consciousness is the broad personality disposition that determines the degree to which one is careful, precise, thoughtful and responsible in one's actions.
5. Manners and habits – It is a complex personal orientation, which refers to the organization of simple actions or patterns of behaviour into complex, hierarchical systems.
6. Present and Future Career – It is indeed a complex problem to be resolved in practical life career. It depends upon different personal abilities, home environment and socio-cultural factors (Martin et al.

1976). It can be one job or many jobs. It includes education, training and work experience.

7. Personal Handicaps – The term ‘handicap’ refers to an encumbrance or disadvantage that produces a less than normal ability to perform. Usually the term refers to disability which means lack of any ability to perform some function, more specifically a congenital impairment or loss of function through trauma, disease etc.

8. Frustrations – It refers to the act of blocking interfering with or disrupting behaviour that is directed toward some goal. Disruptive behaviour may be almost anything, from overt physical movement to covert cognitive processes. It also refers to the emotional state assumed to result from frustrated goals.

9. Feeling of failure and inferiority – It refers to the feeling of diminished capacity or less than normal ability to perform something. It is infact any attitude toward oneself that is generally negative.

The present research work was undertaken with a view to examine the effect of parent-child relationship on children’s personal problems. The hypothesis formulated was that “parent-child relationship would show significant impact on the personal problems of the respondents”. The empirical study was conducted on a sample of 480 adolescents of both gender in equal number. They were drawn from intermediate students belonging to senior secondary schools located in Patna district. They were matched in every respects as far as possible. For data collection – “Youth Problem Inventory” by M. Verma (2009) was used for measuring nine personal problems of the respondents and Rao’s parent-child relationship scale (2011) was used for measuring nature of parent-child relationship of the respondents.

The result obtained is recorded and displayed in the table given below–

Table

Showing the effect of Parent-Child Relationship on Personal Problems of the Respondents

Personal Values	Respondents N = 480				t	df	P
	Healthy parent-child relationship = 240		Unhealthy parent-child relationship = 240				
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.			
Illogical Fears	5.26	6.91	9.28	2.10	4.94	478	<.01
Depression	6.91	5.66	8.80	6.55	2.07	478	<.05
Health and Constitution	7.90	5.65	8.85	4.55	1.35	478	>.05
Beauty Consciousness	9.11	2.78	8.80	3.36	0.95	478	>.05

Manners and Habits	14.85	3.44	11.80	3.46	2.71	478	<.01
Present and Future Career	9.97	3.22	7.98	2.62	3.69	478	<.01
Personal Handicap	10.07	2.42	10.25	2.86	1.07	478	>.05
Frustration	8.86	3.29	9.88	4.31	0.87	478	>.05
Feeling of Inferiority	13.16	6.80	12.11	7.15	0.55	478	>.05

From the table it is evident that in respect of personal problems, the adolescent children having healthy parent-child relationship excelled their counterparts having unhealthy parent-child relationship in terms of manners & habits and present & future career orientation. In context of illogical fear and depression, unhealthy parent-child relationship was found more conducive. In respect of health & constitution, beauty consciousness, personal handicaps, the respondents of the two groups did not differ significantly.

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