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ABSTRACT

Adolescents possess typical experiences across cultures but in Indian context they have very different experiences during growing years, the cultural differences are vast with regard to their conduct and are based on traditional adult roles stereotypes. Psychologically, adolescence is the age when the individual becomes integrated into the society of adults, the age when the child no longer feels that he is below the level of his or her elders but equal at least in rights.

Consistent evidence demonstrates that effective parenting has a significant role in healthy development of a child. The patterns of personality are shaped in the first few years of life and the family members, particularly parents are the chief architects in shaping the personality of a child. Parents share the responsibility of bringing up their children in a manner so that as adults they become effective members of the respective society. Whatever parents do with children to achieve this goal is broadly known as parenting (Kendziora & O'Leary, 1993). However, It is observed that within parenting fathers and mothers have discrepancies in their attitudes towards their children, broadly on gender differences and hence it is marked as parent-child relationship.

Adjustment the other variable of the study refers to adapting to the continually changing reality. Adjustment, therefore, in adolescents is defined as a continuous process of maintaining harmony among the attributes of self and the environmental conditions that surround them.

Self-esteem another variable of the present study also encompasses both self confidence and self acceptances. While adolescent's self-esteem can fluctuate, from approximately eighth grade; studies have found that self-esteem appears relatively stable. Individuals with high self-esteem in childhood are likely to be adolescents with high self-esteem. Many studies have demonstrated that during middle and late adolescence, besides early adulthood, self-esteem stabilizes or even increases (Savin-Williams & Demo, 1983; Harter, 1990). Thus viewing the significance of Parent-child relationship on the development of adjustment and self-esteem the present study entitled "Parent Child Relationship, Adjustment patterns and Self Esteem among Adolescents" was undertaken in Kashmir Valley. The population of the study consisted of the students studying in 9th

and 10th standard of both rural and urban area out of which 120 adolescents were those whose parents were educated and 120 were those whose parents were uneducated. For this purpose Parent-Child Relationship Scale (Rao,1989), Self-Esteem Inventory (Coopersmiths,1981), Adjustment Inventory(Mohsin, Husain Jehan, 1987 was administered on 240 adolescents. ANOVA and t-test were used to analyze the data.

It was found that (a) Gender and parents education had an effect on parent child relationship of both father and mother.(b) The interaction of gender with locale as well as parents education had a significant effect on level of adjustment.(c) Locale, gender, parent's education and all their two way and three way interactions had a significant effect on the level of self-esteem of the subject.(d) Male and female subjects had a significant difference on the degree of parent child relationship of both father and mother where female had more association with the fathers and males have with their mothers.(e) There is a significant difference between the level of education on parent child relationship (Father, Mother) were educated parents subject accounted more for their better relationship with parents.(f) There is a significant difference between male and female in the level of adjustment were females are better adjusted.(g) There is a significant difference between rural, urban, male, female, educated and uneducated parents subject in the level of self-esteem were urban male and the subjects of educated parents have more degree of self-esteem.(h) Protecting, Demanding, Indifferent, Symbolic reward, Loving and Object reward dimensions are significantly different for parent child relationship of father in urban areas were female had a higher score ,were as in rural areas symbolic reward dimension is only important in parent child relationship father.(i) All the ten dimensions of parent child relationship(mother) except neglecting dimension had a significantly different for male and female subjects among urban areas were as in rural area Object reward is the only dimension were male and female subjects are significantly different.(j) The male and female subjects both hailing from urban and rural areas are significantly different in all the four dimensions of Adjustment Home, Health, Social, Emotional.(k) The subjects of educated and uneducated parents were significantly different on all variables of the study irrespective of their locale.