

EFFECT OF ETHICITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS ON CHILD REARING ATTITUDE

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Abstract : Parents occupy the most important place in the development of the child, Steinberg(1990) in his study revealed that a majority of parents feels that the adolescent years are the most challenging and difficult for bring up and care for (a child) until they are fully grown. In spite of rapid changes within the modern family, parental discipline is very essential for building healthy emotionality and personality of the child. Emotional intelligence is essential for the success of an individual. Some researchers consider emotional intelligence as a group of traits and some see it as an ability. The study was conducted on 200 subjects. The objective of the study was to find out the impact of SES and ethnicity on child rearing attitude of the mothers. The findings reveal that there would be significant difference between high SES mothers and low SES mothers on their child rearing attitudes. No significant difference would be found between the mothers of the two ethnic groups on their child rearing attitudes.

Keywords- Child rearing, Attitude, Socio-economic status, Ethnicity.

I. INTRODUCTION:

Parents often face a seemingly endless array of choices when it comes to child-rearing. From deciding whether or not to work, to selecting breast milk vs. formula, to implementing permissive or authoritative discipline, it can be difficult for parents to decide on the right course of action. Although it may feel like there is only one best way to raise a child, a survey of global parenting reveals that child-rearing practices in different cultures are actually quite diverse in form, and the influence culture plays is profound. Child-rearing in different cultures can be as varied as the countries from which they come. Some practices can appear neglectful by American standards, while others just seem unusual.

For societal perpetuation, socialization is the life long process through which a child is indoctrinated in to the culture of his life and by learning particular social behavior patterns, becomes an accepted member of his group. Psychologists have given much importance to socialization in the development of personality.

While shaping the child's behavior and gratifying his desires, parental control consists of some important factors which affect the child rearing attitudes. Child rearing practices of the parents and parent child relationships and parenting techniques etc, Child rearing means bringing up to the children. It refers generally to all interactions between parent and their children. These interactions include the parental expressions of attitudes, values and beliefs.

Many psychologists have described the importance once of child rearing practices in regard to development of personality characteristics (Kagans and Moss, 1968, Schacefer and Bayleg, 1963). According to Barton et.al(1977), personality of a child can be predicted from knowing child-rearing practices adopted by his mother.

A good amount of individual difference also exists so far as maternal attitudes are concerned.

The common needs of children (during infancy stage) and the common of societies force all parents to adopt these following aims:-

1. **Feeding:** - to teach the child to bite, to chew and to use his fingers in the skilfull and acceptable way in obtaining his food.
2. **Toilet training:** - to teach the child to control his elimination reflexes voluntarily.
3. **Dependency:** - to teach child to be fond of his parents rather than passionately attached to them.
4. **Aggression:** - to teach the child acceptable styles and intensities of aggressive behavior as well as the appropriate situations for which and objects against which it can be employed.

At the time to birth the human infant is physically helpless. It is true that the new born baby can make a number of responses, but he is completely dependent upon others for his survival. From the very start some of the responses elicit behavior from people who happen to be in the immediate. As environment a result others try to met his physical needs.

By parental attitude is meant the generalized mental disposition with which a parent thinks the child should be handled in accordance with which he would like, if free from and unimpeded by other agencies, to plan and adopt concrete measure for child rearing. The assessment of parent attitude posses a number of problems (Burchinal, Lee G.(1958) most of them arising from attempts of psychologist to find a cause and effect of relationship of these attitudes and child behavior.

Baldwins study (1945) research on parental and personality development has turned up a number of dimensions for describing parental behavior and variety of conclusions about the effects of each dimension.

Long ago Symonds (1939) concluded that like autonomy-control, acceptance rejection was a very significant psychological dimension at home. As evidence for "acceptance" Symonds noted that the parents are devoted to the rearing of the child, they give the child loving care and protection, they are demonstrative in affection, they look upon him as an individual rather than a child, they participate in his games, hobbies etc, they do not expect too much of child, they give wise counseling and encouragement. On the one hand, the attitude of parental rejection was said to be composed of such elements as showing no interest in the child, verbal punishment, like nagging, scolding etc., failure to support the child, criticism or blame of child, unfavorable comparison with siblings, the child, too much supervision etc.

The autonomy-control dimension refers to the quantum of freedom. Symonds (1939) used the autonomy – control level to mean, the parental attitude of submissiveness Vs dominance.

In the Fels study (Baldwin, Kalhorn and Breese, 1945) autonomy syndrome included justification of policy, democracy of policy, clarify of policy etc. the high parental control attitude seems to possess the ingredients of dictatorial attitude, denial to the child any participation in decision making and so on.

The poattern study (Sears, Maccoby and Levin, 1957) considered a strictness permissiveness dimension which resembles the control autonomy dimension of Symonds. In the Schafer and Bayley (1963) study such variable as social isolation of the child, wish to control the child, intrusiveness, excessiveness contact, fostering dependency etc. went to constitute the autonomy control dimension.

II. HYPOTHESES:

1. Socio-economic status will be a significant factor in determining child rearing attitude of the mothers.
2. The Hindus mother and the Muslim mother differ significantly on their child rearing attitude.

III. METHODOLOGY:

Sample: - the study was conducted on 200 subjects. Out of these 100 subjects were taken from the Hindu families and the rest subject 100 subjects were taken from the Muslim families of Muzaffarapur district. Stratified random sampling was adopted for this study.

Tools:- Hindi version of Rohner's Parental acceptance – rejection Questionnaire (mother form) (PARQ).

1. Social – Economic Status scale.
2. A personal – Data sheet.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

By comparing of Mean scores of child rearing attitude of the high and low SES groups, It is found that the high SES has a mean of child rearing score 125.61 and SD 26.70 while Low SES group mean is 121.75 and SD 27.7. Finding indicates that High SES group and low SES group differ significantly on their child rearing attitude. Thus the Hypothesis verified.

The “t” test indicates that the Hindu mothers and the Muslim mothers groups do not differ significantly on their child rearing attitudes. With regard to their child rearing attitude and practices, the two groups found to be alike.

The mean scores of the Hindu mother's group is 155.35, N 100, SD 36.20, SEM 2.56, SE. diff 3.58 and ‘t’ ratio 0.36 which is not significant.

The mean scores of the Muslim mothers group is 154.45, N 100, SD 35.40, SEM 2.50, SE diff 3.58, ‘t’ ratio 0.26 which is also not significant.

The above findings indicate that in respect of total PARQ scores there is no significant difference between above two groups. It means that ethnicity variable is not playing any significant role, so far as received maternal acceptance rejection is concerned.

V. CONCLUSION:

Mothers of high socio economic status are bound to differ significantly from the mother of low socio economic status. In other words that the significant differences. Would be found between HSES mothers and LSES mother on their child rearing attitude.

The Hindu and Muslim mothers do not differ significantly on their child rearing attitude..

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