

# Superiority and inferiority complex among adolescent boys and girls- An Sociological study

**Sujatha C.N**

Assistant Professor of sociology  
Government Arts College  
Bangalore-01

**Abstract:** The present study is an attempt to investigate the relationship between Inferiority complex and Frustration in adolescents. It was conjectured that Inferiority complex in adolescents is positively correlated with Frustration resulting in reactions of Aggression, Resignation, Fixation and Regression. The sample comprised of 100 pre-University college students in the age range of 16-18. The results revealed that Inferiority complex correlated significantly with Frustration. The correlation was specifically high on Aggression Resignation and Frustration on the whole. Further regression analysis was carried out to see whether Frustration would predict Inferiority complex. It was revealed that Frustration significantly predicts Inferiority complex.

**Keywords:** - Superiority complex, inferiority complex, adolescents, personality, adolescent.

**Introduction:** Sometimes, it turns out a character who seems to think the world of themselves actually doesn't; their high-and-mighty attitude hides crippling insecurity. They're often eager, even desperate, to prove themselves, and they won't take it well if their attempt fails. Often, the reason for their insecurity is because they have such a high opinion of themselves that they can't deal with any kind of perceived failure or rejection, bringing the whole thing into a large and angry circle. Conversely, the opposite can also be true. A character who feels they are worthless may constantly try to outperform or seek approval from others to make themselves feel like they have some sort of value. Any sort of rejection is unbearably painful because it acts as a reminder of the pitiful failure they see themselves as. Commonly they'll try to feel more secure by putting others down. If they go through a Break the Haughty situation, expect it to have shades of Break the Cutie, as this character is almost always a Jerkass Woobie. May be a trait of the Broken Ace and Beta Test Baddie or show up in deconstructions of the Alpha Bitch, Jerk Jock, Bratty Half-Pint, Smug Snake, Smug Super, Sub-Par Supremacist, Insufferable Genius, Arrogant Kung-Fu Guy, Small Name, Big Ego, or even A God Am I (i.e straight superiority complex). Compare Sad Clown, someone who masks their insecurities with humor rather than arrogance. Contrast with Heroic Self-Deprecation, where the person is in fact awesome but the person themselves doesn't believe that they are worth much. Might also overlap with Easily Embarrassed Youngster if they're under 18.

**Research Objectives;** The main objective of this research is to study the Superiority and Inferiority Complex of adolescent boys and girls. This study aimed to examine the comparison between adolescent boys and girls in perspective of their personality difference. The specific objectives include: 1. To examine the Superiority Complex among adolescent's boys and girls. 2. To compare the Superiority Complex between adolescent's boys and girls. 3. To examine the Inferiority Complex among adolescents' boys and girls. 4. To compare the Inferiority Complex between adolescent's boys and girls.

## Hypotheses;

Based on the above objectives, the following null hypotheses were developed: ▪ There is no significant difference between Superiority Complex of adolescent's boys and girls. ▪ There is no significant difference between Inferiority Complex of adolescent's boys and girls. Methodology In the present study, 80 adolescents in the age range of 16 to 18 years were selected as a sample by random sampling technique. The adolescent Personality Test by Dr. A. Pandey was administered to selected girls and boys (40-40). The scoring of the scale was done accordingly. Statistical analysis was carried out to find the results. The obtained results were analyzed using the Mean and S.D.

## Literature Review:

Here are some literature Review on related Research area: In a study it was found that the main effect of gender and birth order were significant in Inferiority Complex, while the main effect of birth order was significant in Superiority Complex. A study shows a strong and positive relationship between inferiority complex and social interaction inferiority complex should be distinguished from personality constructs such as neuroticism and self-esteem, that correlate with mental health problems superiority could be linked to maladaptive or aggressive behaviors with others. Inferiority complex is an intense and deep feeling of inadequacy that individuals experience in relation to perceiving others as more competent than themselves and not feeling ready to overcome a problem. This complex prevents the expression and development of the existing potential. The problem of Inferiority Complex among Adolescents is becoming increasingly alarming. Teenagers are the prime years of bearing the burden of inferiority feelings. Adler argued that only if women were given the same opportunities as men could they deal successfully with their sense of inferiority. Striving for superiority is a positive striving for perfection. Healthy people strive for superiority however they do not develop a superiority complex to mask true feelings of inferiority. Despite existing literature on gender differences, the correlation between superiority and inferiority complexes among adolescent boys and girls remains understudied. Therefore, the present study aims to provide a fresh perspective on the relationship between superiority and inferiority complexes and compare their prevalence among adolescent boys and girls. By exploring this under examined area, this research seeks to contribute new insights to the field and enhance, understanding of the complex dynamics between gender, self-perception, and psychological wellbeing during adolescence.

**Need and Significance of the Study:** Every individual is said to have a personality of his own which is unique and distinct from every other personality. Development of personality mainly depends on physical, chemical, environmental factors which include home, school etc. But the influence of school on child's personality is more powerful, school covers a significant part of child's formative years.

## Objectives of the Study

The study was conducted to achieve following objective

1. To compare the personality difference between boys and girls.
2. To compare the personality difference between government school boys and girls.
3. To compare the personality difference between private school boys and girls.

## Hypothesis

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, the following hypothesis were formulated for the present study 1. There

is no significant difference between boys and girls in personality.

2. There is no significant difference between boys and girls of government schools in personality.
3. There is no significant difference between boys and girls of private schools in Personality.

## Sample

In the present study the student of age group 12 years to age group 18 years will be taken in the sample of adolescent. 600 students were taken with equal ratio of male and female adolescent of Jaipur city.

1. To measure personality – ‘Adolescent personality test’ by Dr. Pandey was used. The APT has 80 statement. These statement are divided into four traits; each trait has 20 statement 10 lead to positive and 10 lead to negative aspects of trait.

## Procedure;

First of all, the scale was distributed among the adolescent. The subjects were asked to tick mark on the appropriate choice which is suitable for them Statistical analysis The data obtained through questionnaires were arranged in the form of tables. The mean, S.D, t test and correlation were used for data analysis.

### Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Table 1

Group	N	Mean	S.D	t value
Personality of boys	300	88.66	9.33	3.59
Personality of girls	300	85.93	9.31	

df= 598 value at .05 level = 1.96 value at .01=2.58

Table no.1 shows that the obtained value of “t” is 3.59 at df = 598, which is more than the value of “t” at .05 and .01 level of significance. From the given table the mean of personality of boys is 88.66 and personality of girls is 85.93. Hence null hypothesis ‘There is no significant difference between boys and girls in personality’ has been rejected on both the level of significance.

Table 2

Group	N	Mean	S.D	t value
Personality of govt.boys	150	90.06	9.08	1.06
Personality of govt. girls	150	88.95	9.05	

df= 298 value at .05 level = 1.97 value at .01=2.59

Table no.3 shows that the obtained value of “t” is 4.19 at df = 298, which is more than the value of “t” at .05 and .01 level of significance. From the given table the mean of personality of pvt. Boys is 87.27 and personality of pvt. Girls is 82.90. Hence null hypothesis ‘There is no significant difference between boys and girls of private schools in personality’ has been rejected on both the level of significance.

## Conclusion:

This study sought to investigate and contrast the prevalence of superiority complex and inferiority complex among adolescent boys and girls, with a particular focus on examining the relationship between these complexes and personality differences. The research aimed to explore whether significant disparities exist between

adolescent boys and girls in terms of their Superiority and Inferiority complex tendencies, and how these complexes intersect with individual personality traits. By examining the complex dynamics between gender, personality, and self-perception, this study aimed to contribute to our understanding of the psychological factors that shape adolescent behavior, Personality and social interactions. The findings of this research can inform strategies for promoting healthy personality development, self-awareness, and emotional well-being among adolescents, while also highlighting potential gender-specific considerations for interventions and support programs. By examining the complex dynamics between gender, personality, and self-perception, this study aimed to contribute to our understanding of the psychological factors that shape adolescent behavior, Personality and social interactions. The findings of this research can inform strategies for promoting healthy personality development, self-awareness, and emotional well-being among adolescents, while also highlighting potential gender-specific considerations for interventions and support programs.

### References:

1. Kalippan KV. (2008) Personality development of student youth towards nation building: Journal of psychological research University of Madras. Vol.52, No.1, 1-6. References
2. Adler A. Understanding Human Nature. Garden City Publishing Company; c1952.
3. Adeka P. a Study of the Relationship between Inferiority Complex and Superiority Complex. Academia.edu; c2019.
4. Lamberson KA, Wester KL. Feelings of inferiority: A first attempt to define the construct empirically. Journal of Individual Psychology. 2018;74(2):172-87.
5. Sumeyye D, Sahin ES. Inferiority and Superiority Complex: Examination in terms of gender, Birth order and Psychological symptoms. Research Gate. ;16(3):375-401.
6. K Chandrasekaran (Namakkal). (2008) A study of environment on personality development. Journal of psychological research, Vol.52, No.1, 17-18.
7. Garfield Bester (2007). Personality development of the adolescent. South African journal of education Vol.27 (2) 177-190.
8. Poppy Cullen (2011) An Investigation into Personality Typologies of Adolescent Sexual Offenders. Downey, D. B. (2001). Number of siblings and intellectual development: The resource dilution explanation. American Psychologist, 56, 497-504.
9. Gugl, E., & Welling, L. (2010). The early bird gets the worm? Birth order effects in a dynamic family model. Economic Inquiry, 48, 690-703
10. Adeka P. A Study of the Relationship between Inferiority Complex and Superiority Complex. Academia.edu; .
11. Lamberson KA, Wester KL. Feelings of inferiority: A first attempt to define the construct empirically. Journal of Individual Psychology. 2018;74(2):172-87.