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Parental age and occupation: Determinants of social intelligence among adolescents

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Abstract

Adolescence is the most vulnerable stage to the social problems. The more congenial home environment, less parent domination and sympathetic parental encouragement have been found to be responsible for the achievement of the adolescence. Secure bonds between parents and their adolescent allow young people the freedom to grow and explore, knowing their home represents a safe heaven to which they can return when necessary. Social intelligence is an aggregated measure of self and social awareness, evolved social beliefs and attitudes, and a capacity to manage complex social change. Paternal occupation has positive impacts on social intelligence of adolescents. Social intelligence is an aggregated measure of self and social awareness, evolved social beliefs and attitudes, and a capacity to manage complex social change. Parental factors also contributes a lot in the development of the child and purgation of his inherent qualities. Parents play an important role in all-round development of the child.

This study examines the impacts of social intelligence in relation to their parental age and occupation of adolescents. The study was conducted in Hisar district of Haryana state. Two areas were selected purposively *i.e.*, rural and urban, from urban area Hisar city and from rural area two villages namely Gawar and Shamsukh were taken for collection of data. From each schools 30 boys and 30 girls of 13-15 year (240 adolescents) were included in final sample. Father age and occupation was independent variable. Social intelligence were taken as dependent variable. Social Intelligence Scale (SIS) by Chadha and Ganesan (2004) was used for assessing social intelligence. The results reveal that paternal occupation possess more social intelligence than maternal occupation. Mean scores showed that adolescents whose fathers were farmers were low in social intelligence from the adolescents whose fathers were engaged in laborers, service and businessman. The results further exposed that statistically non-significant differences existed in all aspects of social intelligence in both paternal and maternal age.

Keywords: Social intelligence, adolescents, parental age, parental occupation

Introduction

Adolescence is the period of transition from the dependency of childhood to the independence and responsibility of early adulthood. Adolescence is considered as a bridging period from childhood to adulthood. It is a period of rapid changes in almost all developmental dimensions (Katoch, 2013) [3]. Social intelligence is the person's ability to understand and manage other people and to engage in adaptive social interactions (Thorndike, 1920) [7]. "Man is a social animal". This is an early saying of our ancestors; even this statement reveals that man is mainly dependent on his 'Society'. A person is socially intelligent and adjustable only when he moulds himself according to the needs of the society. While living in a society, man should live with love, co-operation and kindness. It is because every society has certain customs, traditions, norms and ideals, the fulfillment of which is the primary responsibility of man, so that he can reside well in the society. Healthy family relationships, home coziness, and love of the dearest people, understanding and care everybody needs in life. In the family adolescents get education, learn life time values and obtain strength needed to develop personalities. They observe the parents and then they either follow their example or choose their own path in life. Hence family relationships start showering their colors of family members. During the past few decades family environment had been identified as being a contributing factor in a child's educational, cognitive and affective development. Families vary greatly in structure and functioning.

The behavioral characteristics of any individual can largely be assessed not only by person alone, but also by his environment in which he is brought up. Each child need an experientially rich environment. The optimal environment for the infant is one in which the child is cared for in his home in the contact of a warm and continuous relationship with her own mother under

conditions of varied input. Parents play an important role in all-round development of the child. The emotional bondage and the intimacy between parents and their children give a sense of security to the children and helps in the development of a positive concept of self. Adolescent is that period of development in human beings that begins when the individual feels that adult privileges which are due to him are not accorded to him and that ends when the full power and social status of the adult are accorded to the individual by his society. In whatever way the parents encourage their children, it has a lasting effect on their way of thinking and doing. Hence, the present paper was undertaken to find out the social intelligence of adolescents in relation to their parental age and occupation, so that efforts can be made to improve the social intelligence of children and hence, helping the adolescents to make this period a more adjusting and enjoyable time leading to success in adolescents life.

Objectives of the study

- To study the social intelligence of adolescents in relation to their paternal age.
- To study the social intelligence of adolescents in relation to their maternal age.
- To study the social intelligence of adolescents in relation to their paternal occupation.
- To study the social intelligence of adolescents in relation to their maternal occupation.

Research Methodology

The study was conducted in Hisar district of Haryana state. Two areas were selected purposively *i.e.*, rural and urban, from urban area Hisar city and from rural area two villages namely Gawar and Shamsukh were taken for collection of data. From each schools 30 boys and 30 girls of 13-15 year (240 adolescents) were included in final sample. Father education was independent variable. Social intelligence were taken as dependent variable. Social Intelligence Scale (SIS) by Chadha and Ganesan (2004) was used for assessing social intelligence.

Results

The results of the present investigation in accordance with the objectives, inferred through the use of prescribed methodology and standard tools. The results have been presented under the following heads:

Comparison of social intelligence of adolescents as per paternal age

An observation of Table 1 unveils data concerning comparison of adolescent's social intelligence on the basis of paternal age. Table revealed that non- significant differences for all aspects of social intelligence against paternal age. The mean scores divulged that adolescents of 31-37 years paternal age category were comparatively had better social intelligence.

Table 1: Social intelligence of adolescents as per paternal age (n=229)

Aspects of social intelligence	31- 37 years Mean±SD	37+ 44 years Mean±SD	44+ 51 years Mean±SD	F value
(a) Patience	20.24±1.84	20.5±2.06	19.72±2.11	0.62
(b) Cooperativeness	26.16±2.76	26.22±2.60	26.24±3.19	0.01
(c) Confidence	21.25±2.01	20.88±1.70	21.20±1.53	1.10
(d) Sensitivity	22.19±2.07	22.41±2.12	22.52±2.24	0.33
(e) Recognition of social environment	0.65±0.81	0.53±0.60	0.48±0.59	0.91
(f) Tactfulness	3.07±1.20	3.31±1.15	2.96±1.17	1.53
(g) Sense of humour	3.38±1.30	3.35±1.27	2.96±1.31	1.08
(h) Memory	3.72±1.66	3.79±1.94	3.16±1.93	1.23
(i) Overall social intelligence	100.88±5.82	100.67±6.50	99.52±9.33	0.40

*Significant at 5% level

Note: Means in the same row that do not share superscripts differ at $p < 0.05$ using Duncan multiple difference comparison

Comparison of social intelligence of adolescents as per maternal age

Table 2 highlights the results related to comparison of adolescents' social intelligence on the basis of maternal age computing Duncan multiple differences comparison. Related

results illustrated non- significant differences for all aspects of social intelligence as per maternal age. Although, mean scores shows that different aspects of social intelligence of adolescents whose mothers were younger comparatively had better social intelligence of adolescents' mothers.

Table 2: Social intelligence of adolescents as per maternal age (n=234)

Aspects of social intelligence	28- 34 years Mean±SD	34+ 40 years Mean±SD	40+ 47 years Mean±SD	F value
(a) Patience	20.32±1.72	20.10±2.04	19.68±1.89	0.89
(b) Cooperativeness	26.10±2.83	26.37±2.49	26.9±3.25	0.29
(c) Confidence	20.87±2.07	21.11±1.68	21.5±1.56	0.41
(d) Sensitivity	22.13±2.11	22.59±2.09	22.0±2.7	1.55
(e) Recognition of social environment	0.60±0.77	0.53±0.61	0.59±0.67	0.30
(f) Tactfulness	3.11±1.19	3.21±1.19	3.18±1.18	0.17
(g) Sense of humour	3.41±1.30	3.31±1.25	3.00±1.31	0.86
(h) Memory	3.67±1.69	3.73±1.92	3.45±1.90	0.22
(i) Overall social intelligence	100.46±5.76	101.15±6.27	98.82±8.81	1.35

*Significant at 5% level

Note: Means in the same row that do not share superscripts differ at $p < 0.05$ using Duncan multiple difference comparison

Comparison of social intelligence of adolescents as per paternal occupation

Table 3 explained the comparison of adolescent's social intelligence on the basis of paternal occupation. Results show

significant differences for sense of humour ($F=3.09^*$) and memory ($F=11.01^*$) and as well as for overall social intelligence ($F=4.06^*$) at 0.05 level of significance. Further results illustrates that non- significant difference were

observed in other aspect of social intelligence against paternal occupation. Mean scores showed that adolescents whose fathers were farmers were low in social intelligence from the

adolescents whose fathers were engaged in laborers, service and businessman.

Table 3: Social intelligence of adolescents as per paternal occupation

Aspects of social intelligence	Laborers Mean±SD	Farmer Mean±SD	Businessman Mean±SD	Service Mean±SD	F value
(a) Patience	20.13±2.07	19.73±2.13	20.11±1.32	20.63±1.64	1.39
(b) Cooperativeness	26.21±2.95	25.91±2.34	26.72±2.02	26.59±2.85	0.67
(c) Confidence	21.20±1.74	20.85±1.89	21.0±1.61	20.74±1.79	0.80
(d) Sensitivity	22.47±2.01	22.25±2.29	22.78±1.77	21.85±2.28	0.92
(e) Recognition of social environment	0.59±0.68	0.60±0.68	0.44±0.70	0.41±0.50	0.80
(f) Tactfulness	3.30±01.15	3.06±1.14	3.0±1.24	03.26±1.29	0.80
(g) Sense of humour	3.26±1.28 ^{ab}	3.07±1.17 ^a	3.72±1.27 ^b	03.85±1.43 ^b	3.09*
(h) Memory	4.0±1.80 ^b	2.70±1.69 ^a	4.56±1.76 ^b	04.33±1.69 ^b	11.01*
(i) Overall social intelligence	101.41±6.6 ^b	98.30±07.6 ^a	102.33±4.1 ^b	101.70±6.1 ^b	4.06*

*Significant at 5% level

Note: means in the same row that do not share superscripts differ at $p < 0.05$ using Duncan multiple difference comparison

Comparison of social intelligence of adolescents as per maternal occupation

Comparison of adolescent's social intelligence on the basis of maternal occupation is portrayed in Table 4. Results show non-significant differences for all aspects of social

intelligence against maternal occupation. Mean scores showed that adolescents whose mothers were laborers had comparatively poor social intelligence from the adolescents whose mothers were homemaker and service.

Table 4: Social intelligence of adolescents as per maternal occupation

Aspects of social intelligence	Homemaker Mean±SD	Laborers Mean±SD	Service Mean±SD	F value
(a) Patience	20.2±1.91	19.43±2.29	19.86±1.68	1.57
(b) Cooperativeness	26.22±2.74	26.71±2.15	26.29±1.38	0.32
(c) Confidence	21.5±1.79	20.86±1.74	21.29±1.60	0.18
(d) Sensitivity	22.38±2.13	22.57±2.6	22.86±1.21	0.24
(e) Recognition of social environment	0.58±0.67	0.43±0.60	0.29±0.49	1.09
(f) Tactfulness	3.18±1.17	3.0±1.26	3.86±1.35	1.38
(g) Sense of humour	3.31±1.27	3.19±1.21	03.57±1.40	0.24
(h) Memory	3.72±1.90	3.14±1.53	4.29±0.76	1.31
(i) Overall social intelligence	100.84±6.55	99.29±5.38	102.29±5.28	0.76

*Significant at 5% level

Note: means in the same row that do not share superscripts differ at $p < 0.05$ using Duncan multiple difference comparison

Discussion

Social intelligence is the person's ability to understand and manage other people and to engage in adaptive social interactions (Thorndike, 1920) [7]. The optimal environment for the infant is one in which the child is cared for in his home in the contact of a warm and continuous relationship with her own mother under conditions of varied input. Parent's play an important role in all-round development of the child. Mean scores on the basis of paternal occupation showed that adolescents whose fathers were farmers were low in social intelligence from the adolescents whose fathers were engaged in laborers, service and businessman. Saila and Chamundeswari (2014) [6] expressed that family financial resources, which are mostly associated with parent's occupation and educational attainment, often influence learning opportunities both at home and in school and concluded that there is a positive relationship between parental level of occupation and socio economic background of a student.

Mean scores on the basis of maternal occupation showed that adolescents whose mothers were laborers had comparatively poor social intelligence from the adolescents whose mothers were homemaker and service. The results further exposed that statistically non-significant differences existed in all aspects of social intelligence in both paternal and maternal age. Mean scores showed that adolescents whose mothers were laborers had comparatively poor social intelligence from the adolescents whose mothers were homemaker and service.

These results are also supported by Sjoberg (1990) who revealed that adolescents who come from homes were better adjusted and socially more intelligent, they were confident about their abilities and competent. Parents are with strong values, integrity and positive attitude, can inculcate in their children a set of solid values like fairness, honesty, discipline, justice and integrity right from their childhood (Judy and Arthur 2007) [2]. Parents who were perceived as more acceptant and using less restrictive and hostile psychological control tended to have adolescents with higher academic success and competence (Lakshmi and Arora, 2006) [4]. Ononuga (2005) [5] stated that the kind of occupation a parent engages-in would determine his income as well as his social status.

Conclusion

Social intelligence is the person's ability to understand and manage other people and to engage in adaptive social interactions. The results reveal that paternal occupation possess more social intelligence than maternal occupation. The study demands parental time and concern, social interaction and sufficient availability of required resources to boost social intelligence of adolescents.

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