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Study on perceptions of the family climate of tribal adolescents in Adilabad District of Telangana

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Abstract

The present study was undertaken to find out the perceptions on the family climate of tribal adolescents who are residing in Adilabad district of Telangana State. A total sample of 120 adolescents out of which 60 boys and 60 girls in the age range of 13-19 years were selected through purposive random sampling method. Ex-post factor research design was used for the study. A self-designed interview schedule was used to study the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. Perceptions of the tribal adolescents on their family climate were assessed by using Family climate Scale by Dr. Beena Shah (2001). The scale had ten components like Freedom vs Restrictiveness, Attention vs Negligence, Dominance vs Submissiveness, Acceptance vs Rejection, Trust vs Distrust, Indulgence vs Avoidance, Warmth vs Coldness, Expectation vs Hopelessness, Partiality vs Fairness and Open communication vs Closed communication. The data was analysed using Frequencies and Percentages. The results revealed that, majority of the tribal adolescents perceived that they had moderately favourable family climate followed by highly favourable family climate.

Keywords: Tribal adolescents, Family Climate, Socio-Demographic variables of tribal adolescents, Family environment and Home environment

Introduction

Family is a lasting association of parent and child whose primary function is socialization of the child. The child's first experience of relationships generally occurs within the family. It is in the family that children learn values, norms, behaviours and culture which prepares them on how to act with in a society. Family provides the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members. It has been found from studies that children living in supportive and organized families were more likely to have increased self-confidence, social and emotional competence and were more self-sufficient, and had less anxiety.

Adolescence is a period of conflict and the changes that an individual adopt in this stage lasts long. Family plays an important role in building the personality of the adolescent. The rising incidences of behavioural problems among adolescents demonstrates that some families are unable to cope with the increasing stresses they are experiencing. The more loving and accepting parents provide healthy environment for their child to channelize his energy in proper direction and exercise his potential fully to become a productive member of the society. Parental acceptance plays a major role in determining the attitude and behaviour of the child and that child will be well socialized, being cooperative, friendly, Loyal and exhibits emotionally stable behaviours (Karan and Singh, 1982)^[2].

There are research studies which prove that Family environment of the adolescent is responsible for many personality traits. The intelligence of adolescents is affected to some extent by their family environment (Suman L 2014)^[10]. Aggressive behaviour of adolescents are positively related with their family climate. (Kumar P and Singh J 2018)^[9]. Family climate determinates emotional maturity of adolescent students (Kaur S 2017)^[3]. Family climate is an effective determinant in shaping the personality, attitudes and behaviour of the adolescents and enhancing emotional maturity. Mental health of students from government and government aided schools have significant positive relationship with the family climate (Singh A and Devi S 2018)^[9].

Materials and methods

Based on the nature of the research problem and objectives of the present study, Ex-post facto research design was used. 120 tribal adolescents (60 boys and 60 girls) who were in the age range of 13-19 years were purposively selected. Interview schedule was designed by for the study which includes general profile of the tribal adolescents. Family Climate Scale developed by Dr. Beena Shah was used to find out the family climate of the respondents. The test comprises 90 statements out of which 48 statements are negative and 42 statements are positive. An individual has to answer selecting one option out of the three options given with each statement i.e. “Always”,

“Sometimes” and “Never”.

The sub-dimensions of Family climate scale include Restrictiveness vs. Freedom, Indulgence vs. Avoidance, Partiality vs. Fairness, Attention vs. Negligence, Acceptance vs. Rejection, Warmth vs. Cold Relations, Trust vs. Distrust, Dominance vs. submissiveness, Expectation vs. Hopelessness, Open communication vs. Controlled Communication.

Results and discussion

This section deals with the status of tribal adolescents with regard to their perceptions on family climate.

Table 1.1: Perceptions of tribal adolescents on different components of family climate

N=120

Family climate	Highly favourable		Moderately favourable		Unfavourable	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Freedom vs Restrictiveness	28	23	86	72	6	5
Indulgence vs avoidance	32	27	83	69	5	4
Fairness vs partiality	68	57	52	43	0	0
Negligence vs attention	57	47	62	52	1	1
Acceptance vs rejection	77	64	43	36	0	0
Warmth vs Cold relations	67	56	53	44	0	0
Trust vs Distrust	38	31	80	67	2	2
Dominance vs submissiveness	9	8	95	78	17	14
Expectation vs hopelessness	48	40	69	57	3	3
Open communication vs Closed communication	38	32	82	68	0	0
Total	39	33	81	67	0	0

From the above table 1.1 it is clear that, more than two thirds of the adolescents expressed moderately favourable family climate in the components like Freedom, Indulgence, Attention, Trust, Dominance, Expectations and Open communication. It means that, the adolescents perceived that to some extent their parents were giving them liberty in choosing their personal interests and also in forming healthy and friendly social relationships and openly communicated about challenges of life. Parents showed interest in adolescent’s problems, academics and requirements and had trust on them. They perceived that their parents were worried

about their future, wished for their all-round development and expected from the adolescent that he must get settled as a high rank official.

With regards to Fairness, Acceptance and Warmth, the adolescents perceived that they had highly favourable family climate. It means that, the adolescents reported that, their family irrespective of their gender, treats them equally in the aspects of providing education and also in recognising and meeting their needs. They felt their family as encouraging, affectionate and had a great sense of belongingness.

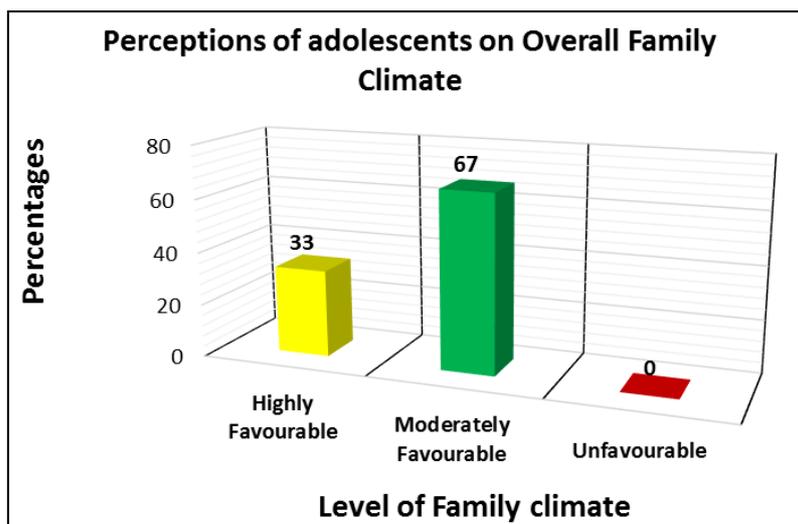


Fig 1.1: Perceptions of tribal adolescents on overall family climate

The figure 1.1. depicts the perceptions of tribal adolescents about their total family climate, 33% of the tribal adolescents perceived that they had highly favourable family climate and remaining 67% perceived that they had moderately favourable family climate. The adolescents felt that, to some extent the

tribal adolescent’s families are providing them with freedom, warmth and indulging them in all the household activities. They were attentive and fair towards needs and problems, accepting, trusting and openly communicating but at the same time they were dominating, and had high expectations on the

adolescent.

It is important to notice that none of them perceived unfavourable family climate. Youth who receive more favourable parental treatment exhibit more positive adjustment outcomes, ranging from higher self-worth to lower levels of risk-taking behaviours (Feinberg and Hetherington, 2001^[1], Shanahan *et al.* 2008)^[7].

Conclusion

- Majority of the respondents (67%) perceived that they had moderate favourable family climate and the remaining 33 percent perceived that they had highly favourable family climate.
- Majority of the respondents perceived highly favourable family climate in terms of Fairness, acceptance and warmth whereas in freedom, indulgence, attention, trust, dominance, expectation and open communication, they had moderately favourable family climate.
- Very few (14%) of the respondents perceived submissive family climate followed by restrictiveness, avoidance, hopelessness, distrust and negligence respectively.

Recommendations

The study has shown that, tribal adolescent's perception about their family climate was positive. Parental care and encouragement were felt from their family. So the misperception about tribal families proved wrong. Tribal people give more importance to familial relations and with the changing society, they are adopting to the needs of the current generations. Educating their children in residential, giving equal importance to girl child education, offering freedom to children to choose their career, encouraging children in participating. Training programs should be offered to parents who are not well aware of dealing with the issues of adolescents. Workshops should be organised for parents to project light on problems that adolescents face and techniques to help them in handling them.

Limitations

- The present study was limited to a small sample of 120 tribal adolescents in the age range of 13-19 years studying in schools and colleges of Adilabad District. Hence the findings are limited to this sample and cannot be generalized for all adolescents.
- The findings are based on the expressed opinions of the respondents and objectivity is limited to the honesty of the respondents.
- The study has usual limitations of time and resources available to a single investigator.

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