

A Study to Assess the Satisfaction Level of Children on Parent–Child Relationship Among Adolescent Girls Studying at Selected Educational Institutions in Honavar, Uttara Kannada

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Abstract

Background: A strong parent-child relationship (PCR) is essential for a child's overall development. This study aimed to explore the quality of parent-child relationships, particularly with fathers, among Indian adolescent girls. While societal attitudes have evolved, concerns remained about whether female children receive the same love, respect, and care as their male counterparts. **Methodology:** This research used a quantitative approach with a descriptive design. A total of 253 adolescent girls from Prabhat Nagar Govt. School, Mar Thoma School, and St. Ignatius Institute of Health Sciences in Honavar were selected using purposive sampling. Data was collected through a five-point rating scale consisting of 10 statements measuring satisfaction with the PCR. Statistical analysis included mean calculations, frequency, percentage distribution, and chi-square tests to identify associations between satisfaction and demographic variables. **Results:** The overall satisfaction level revealed that none were "very dissatisfied", 0.39% were "dissatisfied", 2.7% were "neutral", 75.09% were "satisfied", and 21.73% were "very satisfied" with their parent-child relationships. Chi-square tests showed significant associations with various demographic variables, such as age, educational course, religion, area of residence, type of family, number of children, number of siblings, father's education, mother's education, father's occupation, and mother's occupation, indicating a strong relationship between these factors and satisfaction with the PCR. **Conclusion:** The study concluded that the majority of adolescent girls in the selected research setting expressed satisfaction with their parent-child relationships and were content with their parents' attitudes and acceptance. The findings emphasize the importance of fostering positive parent-child relationships for the overall well-being and development of adolescents.

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INTRODUCTION

Children need love, especially when they do not deserve it.

—Harold Hubert

Fostering a strong parent–child relationship requires significant effort and mutual understanding. Adolescence is a period marked by significant physical and psychological transformations in a child's life. It is crucial for parents to recognize and empathize with their

teenager's requirements, provide support, and grant them the necessary autonomy, all while avoiding excessive control. Parenting with love and an affirming attitude, even in the face of difficult situations, can be an effective strategy for guiding teenagers [1–3].

Parents and their children engage in various types of interactions, assuming different roles such as companions during play, educators, caregivers during times of illness, and enforcers of rules. Research consistently indicates that interactions marked by qualities like warmth, consistency, mutual exchange, support, and open communication between parents and their children are linked to numerous favorable results. Furthermore, in contrast to the common belief that parents lose their significance during adolescence, an increasing body of research indicates that parents continue to exert a steady and influential presence over their teenager's attitudes and conduct throughout the adolescent years. This enduring influence is associated with fewer negative interactions, increased support within the parent–adolescent relationship, and higher levels of trust. This family environment provides adolescents with more opportunities to cultivate and sustain meaningful, positive relationships with their peers. This is achieved in two ways. Firstly, the secure attachment adolescents have with their parents often serves as a model for other relationships, extending to secure peer and romantic partner connections. Secondly, adolescents who enjoy the trust and support of their parents have more opportunities to participate in suitable peer relationships, social activities, and environments outside the home that foster independence [4–6].

UNICEF India, in collaboration with Kantar Public, conducted a formative study aimed at assessing prevailing parenting practices and understanding the existing beliefs, methods, and behaviors of parents, extended family members, and service providers. The study revealed several significant findings:

Mothers predominantly assumed the role of primary caregivers for their children, with fathers being notably less involved. Male caregivers were more inclined to engage in outdoor activities with children, whereas female caregivers played a more active role in facilitating indoor stimulation, often through activities such as storytelling and singing.

Conventional wisdom and childcare practices, especially those passed down by mothers-in-law, continued to hold sway as trusted sources of guidance for child-rearing. Meanwhile, frontline workers were recognized as the key source of information concerning child-related programs and services [7–9].

Disturbingly, the study identified the existence of no less than 30 distinct forms of physical and verbal abuse utilized as disciplinary methods. The use of punishment as a disciplinary measure was widely prevalent for both boys and girls. However, there were distinct and significant differences in the upbringing of girls and boys from an early age. Girls were subjected to greater responsibility for household chores and experienced more everyday restrictions, primarily imposed by fathers. Neglecting the prioritization of responses to COVID-19 places young children at an elevated risk, with potential for long-lasting and irreversible harm. It underscores the critical necessity for providing support to parents and caregivers to promote positive parenting practices. Alarming, the incidence of child violence increased during the COVID-19 pandemic [3].

For over a century, the Indian census has consistently revealed a significant disparity between the numbers of boys and girls. This gender gap, which holds profound implications on a national scale, stems from decisions made at the most intimate level, within families. It is commonly believed that the preference for male offspring is driven by a complex interplay of economic, religious, social, and emotional factors and prevailing norms that elevate the status of males and diminish that of females. Parents often expect sons, rather than daughters, to provide financial and emotional support, particularly in their later years. Sons are seen as contributors to family wealth and property, while daughters are perceived as financial burdens due to dowry customs. Sons are expected to carry forward the family lineage, whereas daughters are married into other households.

Table 1. Frequency and percentage distribution of adolescent girls according to their demographic variables (N = 253).

S.N.	Demographic Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1.	<i>Age in years</i>		
	(a) 12–14	102	40.32%
	(b) 15–17	71	28.06%
	(c) Above 17	80	31.62%
2.	<i>Education</i>		
	(a) 7th standard	30	11.85%
	(b) 8th standard	46	18.18%
	(c) 9th standard	62	24.50%
	(d) 10th standard	31	12.25%
	(e) College	84	33.20%
3.	<i>Area of residence</i>		
	(a) Urban	116	45.84%
	(b) Rural	131	51.77%
	(c) Semi-urban	06	2.37%
4.	<i>Religion</i>		
	(a) Hindu	153	60.47%
	(b) Muslim	14	5.53%
	(c) Christian	86	33.99%
5.	<i>Type of family</i>		
	(a) Nuclear family	182	71.93%
	(b) Joint family	61	24.11%
	(c) Extended family	-	-
6.	<i>No. of children in the family</i>		
	(a) 1–2	132	52.17%
	(b) 3–4	105	41.50%
	(c) 5 and above	16	6.32%
7.	<i>Having male siblings</i>		
	(a) 0–2	237	93.67%
	(b) 3–4	14	5.53%
	(c) 5 and above	2	0.79%
8.	<i>Education of father</i>		
	(a) Illiterate	9	3.56%
	(b) Primary	130	51.38%
	(c) Secondary	71	28.06%
	(d) Graduation	43	16.99%
9.	<i>Education of mother</i>		
	(a) Illiterate	10	3.95%
	(b) Primary	152	60.08%
	(c) Secondary	44	17.39%
	(d) Graduation	47	18.57%
10.	<i>Occupation of father</i>		
	(a) Coolie	89	35.17%
	(b) Self/private employee	140	55.33%
	(c) Government employee	16	6.32%
	(d) Nil	08	3.16%
11.	<i>Occupation of mother</i>		
	(a) Home maker	125	49.40%
	(b) Coolie	18	7.11%
	(c) Self/private employee	29	11.46%
	(d) Government employee	23	9.0%

Furthermore, sons typically fulfill important religious roles, and they are often associated with protecting and wielding power for the family, while daughters are seen as needing protection, creating a perceived strain on the household. According to estimates from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in India, the number of female births that go unreported annually due to gender-biased sex selection has decreased from 583,000 during the period 2001–2006 to 329,000 during the period 2007–12. The present study was undertaken to assess how much the adolescent girls are receiving love and care from their parents without any discrimination and are they really satisfied with the parent–child relationship they experience [10].

METHODOLOGY

The researchers employed a quantitative research approach and utilized a descriptive research design. A total of 253 adolescent girls were selected by purposive sampling technique from Prabhat Nagar Government School, Mar Thoma School, and St Ignatius Institute of Health Sciences at Honavar. Data were collected from the subjects with a 5-point rating scale with 10 statements to measure the satisfaction level on parent–child relationship by an interview session. Data were analyzed by testing the mean, frequency, percentage distribution, and chi-square test to determine the significant association between the satisfaction level selected demographic variables (Tables 1–3 and Figure 1).

Table 2. Frequency and percentage distribution of adolescent girls according to their overall satisfaction level on parent–child relationship ($N = 253$).

Satisfaction Level	Range	Score Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Very dissatisfied	9–15	2.2–33.3%	00	00%
Dissatisfied	16–22	33.5–48.8%	01	0.39%
Neutral	23–29	51.11–64.44%	07	2.7%
Satisfied	30–37	66.66–82.22%	190	75.09%
Very satisfied	38–45	84.44–100%	55	21.73%
Total			253	100%

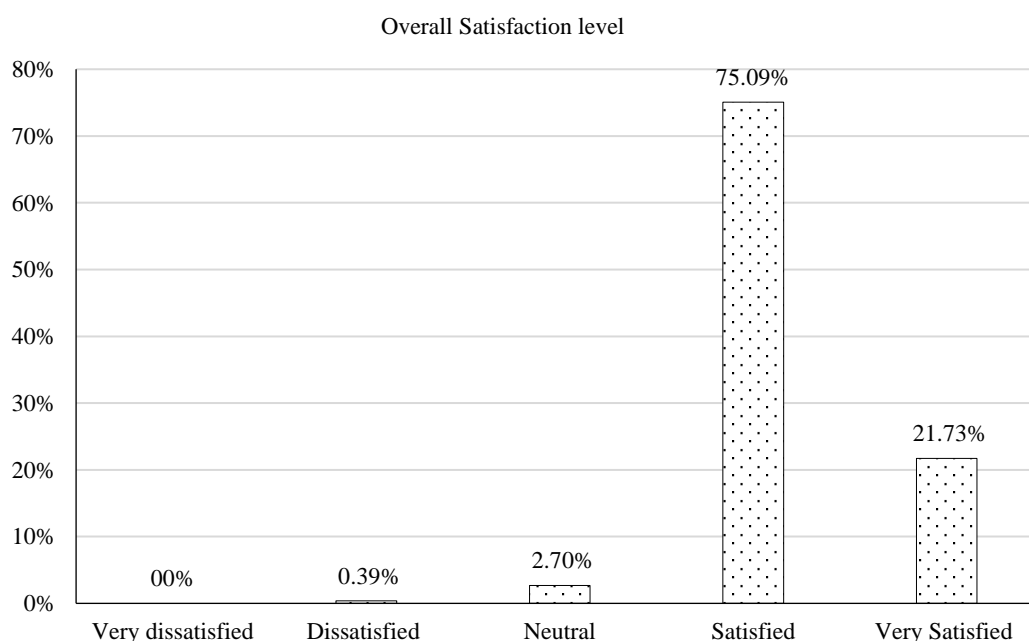


Figure 1. Bar chart showing the percentage distribution of adolescent girls according to their overall satisfaction level on parent–child relationship.

Table 3. Association between the level of satisfaction of the adolescent girls with their selected demographic variables.

S.N.	Demographic Variables	Pre-test Knowledge Score					Chi-square		df	Inference
		Very Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	P (table)	χ^2		
1.	<i>Age in years</i>									
	(a) 12–14	00	00	00	86	22	15.51	21.38	08	$p > 0.05$ NS
	(b) 15–17	00	1	07	58	13				
	(c) Above 17	00	00	00	46	20				
2.	<i>Educational course</i>									
	(a) 7th standard	00	00	00	25	08	26.30	39.31	16	$p > 0.05$ NS
	(b) 8th standard	00	00	02	37	10				
	(c) 9th standard	00	00	1	48	5				
	(d) 10th standard	00	1	4	18	3				
	(e) College level	00	00	00	62	29				
3.	<i>Religion</i>									
	(a) Hindu	00	1	06	103	28	15.51	5.45	08	$p > 0.05$ S
	(b) Muslim	00	00	1	16	4				
	(c) Christian	00	00	00	71	23				
4.	<i>Area of residence</i>									
	(a) Urban	00	1	2	130	26	15.51	12.53	08	$p > 0.05$ S
	(b) Semi-urban	00	0	0	2	1				
	(c) Rural	00	00	5	58	28				
5.	<i>Type of family</i>									
	(a) Nuclear	00	1	05	129	41	15.51	1.027	08	$p > 0.05$ S
	(b) Joint	00	00	2	61	14				
	(c) Extended	00	00	00	00	00				
6.	<i>Number of children</i>									
	(a) 1–2	00	1	02	97	31	15.51	4.45	08	$p > 0.05$ NS
	(b) 3–4	00	00	5	80	22				
	(c) 5 and above	00	00	00	13	2				
7.	<i>Number of siblings</i>									
	(a) 0–2	00	1	06	180	41	15.51	45.79	08	$p < 0.05$ NS
	(b) 3–4	00	00	1	08	13				
	(c) above 4	00	00	00	02	01				
8.	<i>Education of father</i>									
	(a) Illiterate	00	00	02	07	02	21.03	18.66	12	$p > 0.05$ S
	(b) Primary	00	00	02	103	30				
	(c) Secondary	00	00	00	46	14				
	(d) Graduate	00	1	3	34	9				
9.	<i>Education of mother</i>									
	(a) Illiterate	00	00	02	07	2	21.03	18.66	12	$p > 0.05$ S
	(b) Primary	00	00	2	103	30				
	(c) Secondary	00	00	00	46	14				
	(d) Graduate	00	1	3	34	9				
10.	<i>Occupation of the father</i>									
	(a) Unemployed	00	00	00	8	1	21.03	19.91	12	$p > 0.05$ S
	(b) Coolie	00	00	02	72	24				

	(c) Self/private employee	00	00	3	98	27				
	(d) Government employee	00	1	2	12	3				
11.	<i>Occupation of the mother</i>									
	(a) Home maker	00	00	3	96	46	21.03	34.26	12	$p < 0.05$ NS
	(b) Coolie	00	00	00	53	02				
	(c) Self/private employee	00	00	1	24	5				
	(d) Government employee	00	1	3	17	2				

df, degrees of freedom; NS, non-significant; S, significant.

RESULTS

Findings of overall satisfaction level show that there is 00% very dissatisfied, 01 (0.39%) dissatisfied, 07 (2.7%) neutral, 190 (75.09%) satisfied, and 55 (21.73%) found very satisfied with their parent-child relationship. Chi square test [χ^2] score reveals that there is significant association with age $\chi^2(8, N = 253) = 21.38, P = 15.51$, educational course $\chi^2(16, N = 253) = 39.31, P = 26.30$, religion $\chi^2(8, N = 253) = 5.45, P = 15.51$, area of residence $\chi^2(8, N = 253) = 12.53, P = 15.51$, type of family $\chi^2(8, N = 253) = 1.027, P = 15.51$, number of children $\chi^2(8, N = 253) = 4.45, P = 15.51$, number of sibling $\chi^2(8, N = 253) = 45.79, P = 15.51$, education of the father $\chi^2(12, N = 253) = 18.66, P = 21.03$, education of the mother $\chi^2(12, N = 253) = 18.66, P = 21.03$, occupation of the father $\chi^2(12, N = 253) = 19.91, P = 21.03$ and occupation of the mother $\chi^2(12, N = 253) = 34.26, P = 21.03$. A significant association was identified among selected variables including religion, area of residence, father's education, mother's education, father's occupation, and mother's occupation at a 0.05 level of significance, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis (H_0).

CONCLUSION

The present study concluded that majority of the adolescent girls studying in the selected research setting are satisfied with their parent-child relationship and feel proud about their parental attitude and acceptance.

Recommendation

A similar study can be replicated for larger samples, in different settings to make broad generalization and conduct a comparative study with two different groups/sectors. The findings of the study provide a strong basis for future studies on gender bias, girl child abuse, and other related issues with parenting.

Conflict of Interest

We confirm the originality of this manuscript, affirm that it has not been published elsewhere, and is not presently under review by any other journal. We consent to its submission to the *International Journal of Women's Health and Nursing Practice*, and we have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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Ethical Clearance

We obtained informed consent from the students and secured permission from the principals of the chosen educational institutions in Honavar. Additionally, we obtained ethical clearance.

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