

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF HINDU AND MUSLIM ADOLESCENTS' PERCEPTION ABOUT THEIR FAMILY CLIMATE IN THE LIGHT OF SOCIAL DISADVANTAGE

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ABSTRACT

Family climate has deeply influenced the adolescents' feeling of socially advantaged or disadvantaged. The religious customs and traditions have also played an important role, particularly during the period of adolescence. The researchers are interested in studying whether there exist significant differences among male and female adolescents of different religions regarding these factors. They are also interested in finding out the correlation between family climate and feeling of socially disadvantaged.

The researchers have utilized a Scale for Assessing Social Disadvantage (SSD) by Dr. Manju Kumari Sinha and Dr. Arun Kumar Singh (1989) and Family Climate Scale (FCS) by Dr Bina Shah to assess the differences between the perceptions of family climate and social disadvantage among Hindu and Muslim adolescents. The total sample is of 190 adolescents in Maharashtra (44 Hindu Male Adolescents, 47 Hindu Female Adolescents, 46 Muslim Male Adolescent and 53 Muslim Female Adolescents). It is taken from Kolhapur City, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India.

Regarding the Social Disadvantage, present research found significant difference between Hindu and Muslim adolescents ($z = -1.68, p < .05$) and between male and female adolescents ($z = -2.66, p < .01$). In case of the perception of Family Climate, the researchers have found significant difference between Hindu and Muslim adolescents ($z = -3.1, p < .01$) and between male and female adolescents ($z = -2.02, p < .05$). The Pearson correlation between Social Disadvantage and Family Climate for Hindu adolescents (both males and females) is significant at .01 level and the magnitude was $-.47$. For Muslim Adolescents (both males and females), it is $-.25$ and is found significant at .05 level. There found a significant negative correlation between family climate and social disadvantage among male adolescents ($r = -.25, p < .05$) and among female adolescent the value of r is $-.55$ and is significant at .01 level

KEYWORDS: Social disadvantage, Family climate & Adolescence

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INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a transitional period in human life. It links childhood and adulthood. This transition coincides with many social, emotional and physiological changes. It is often stressful. The role of the parents and family members is crucial here. The warm attachment, proper communication, close relations with peers, guidance to handle disturbances in family and school are important during these years. If child is deprived of them, the feeling of social disadvantage will increase. Many traditional researches have focused primarily on economic factors like poverty to explain social disadvantage. But in modern times, other important factors such as family climate, mental illness, poor education, communication and interaction with parents, low social status etc. are focused. The concept of 'family climate' is comprehensive one. It includes social, interpersonal, physical and emotional activities of the

family. The important dimensions of family climate include Freedom vs. Restrictiveness, Attention vs. Negligence, Dominance vs. Submission, Acceptance vs. Rejection, Trust vs. Distrust, Indulgence vs. Avoidance, Warmth vs. Coldness, Expectation vs. Hopelessness, Partiality vs. Fairness and Open Communication vs. Close Communication

The social disadvantage is more likely to be found in certain ethnic groups than others (Havinghurst, 1970). Bernstein (1962), opined that language behaviour of family had a deep impact on intellectual social development of children. Keach et al. (1967) have stated that the socially disadvantaged child is the product of disorganized family environment. Poor home, unresponsive school along with low socio-economic status, impoverished neighbourhood conditions are the major environment contributors to the development of socially disadvantaged child (Kalusmeer and Ripple, 1971). Atkinson et al. (2002) have described key elements of social disadvantage such as Multidimensionality (the deprivation has a neighbourhood dimension. It can be caused by lack of personal resources and unsatisfactory community resources), Dynamism (the people are excluded not just because of their current situation, but also because they have prospect for the future) relativity (it implies exclusion in a particular society at a particular point in time) recognizing agency (social exclusion lies beyond the narrow responsibilities of the individual) and relational nature (it implies a major discontinuity in the relationship of the individual with the rest of society, inadequate social participation, lack of social integration, lack of power etc.) The managerial role of parenting in adolescence consists effectively monitoring the adolescents' development (Smetana J.; 2011). Monitoring includes supervision, choice of social settings by adolescents, activities and friends as well as their academic efforts. Adolescents' are more willing to disclose information with parents if there is a high level of trust, acceptance and quality. Researchers have found the adolescents' disclosure to parents about their whereabouts, activities and friends is linked to positive adolescent adjustment (Smetana, 2011)

After taking it into consideration, researchers have decided to study the relation between social disadvantage and family climate among Hindu and Muslim adolescents. They have also decided to find out whether there exist gender-wise and religion-wise differences related to social disadvantage and family climate.

OBJECTIVES

- To study the relationship between social disadvantage and family climate among Hindu
- To study the relationship between social disadvantage and family climate among Muslim adolescents.
- To study the relationship between social disadvantage and family climate among Male adolescents.
- To study the relationship between social disadvantage and family climate among Female adolescents.
- To compare the perception of family climate between Hindu and Muslim adolescents.
- To compare the degree of social disadvantage between Hindu and Muslim adolescents.
- To compare perception of family climate between Male and Female adolescents.
- To compare the degree of social disadvantage between Male and Female adolescents.

HYPOTHESIS

- There exists significantly negative correlation between social disadvantage and family climate for Hindu adolescents.

- There exists significantly negative correlation between social disadvantage and family climate for Muslim adolescents.
- There exists significantly negative correlation between social disadvantage and family climate for male adolescents.
- There exists significantly negative correlation between social disadvantage and family climate for female adolescents.
- A perception of family climate by Hindu adolescents is more favourable than the perception of family climate by Muslim adolescents.
- A perception of family climate by Male adolescents is more favourable than the perception of family climate by Female adolescents.
- Muslim adolescents are more socially disadvantaged than Hindu adolescents.
- Female adolescents are more socially disadvantaged than Male adolescents.

METHOD

A) Participants

A sample consisted of 190 adolescents in Maharashtra (44 Hindu Male Adolescents, 47 Hindu Female Adolescents, 46 Muslim Male Adolescent and 53 Muslim Female Adolescents) is taken for this research. It is taken from Kolhapur City of Maharashtra, India.

B) Apparatus

Following two tests are used in this research.

- **A Scale for Assessing Social Disadvantage (SSD) by Dr. Manju Kumari Sinha and Dr. Arun Kumar Singh (1989):**
- It was used for determining the level of social disadvantage among Hindus and Muslims. The present scale has been validated against the scale of socio-economic status scale by Sharma (1979). Validity correlation coefficient was **A scale for Family Climate (FCS) by Dr Bina Shah:** It was used to assess the differences between the perceptions of family climate among Hindu and Muslims adolescents. The test-retest reliability of this test for sub-dimensions ranges from .69 to .83. The present test has been validated against judgment of twenty judges and highly significant discriminative indices of all the items were retained

C) Procedure

The students are arranged in groups. Trained test administrators gave the instructions properly. After completing tests, the samples are collected. The incomplete samples are omitted.

RESULTS

In this research, researchers aimed to find out gender-wise and religion-wise differences related to the perception of family climate and social disadvantage.

According to Table No.1, the researchers have found significant difference between adolescent males and females

regarding social disadvantage ($z = -2.66, p < .01$). The adolescent males experienced more social disadvantage than females. Speaking religion-wise, there found a significant difference between Muslim adolescents and Hindu adolescents and Hindu adolescents experience more social disadvantage than Muslim adolescents ($z = -1.68, p < .05$).

According to Table No2, regarding the perception of family climate, researchers have found gender -wise and religion -wise significant differences. In case of male and female adolescents the z value is $-2.02 (p < .05)$ and the females perceive more favourable climate than males. In case of Hindu and Muslim adolescents, Hindu adolescents perceive their family climate more unfavourably than Muslim adolescents ($z = -3.1, p < .01$).

According to Table No.3, researchers have also found the significant negative and moderate correlation at .01 level between the perception of family climate and social disadvantage in case of Hindu adolescent ($r = -.47$). In case of Muslim adolescents this correlation is $-.25$ and is significant at .05 level.

Sex-wise speaking, there found a significant negative correlation between the perception family climate and social disadvantage among male adolescents ($r = -.25, p < .05$) and among female adolescent the value of r is $-.55$ and is significant at .01 level.

DISCUSSIONS

The general belief of society is that female adolescents are more socially disadvantaged than male adolescents and Muslim adolescents are more socially disadvantaged than their Hindu counterparts. The similar belief about family climate, that Hindus experience more favourable family climate than Muslims and males experience more favourable family climate than females is also seen. The researchers tried to check the validity of such popular beliefs and they found very interesting and contrary results.

Researchers have found that female adolescents experience more favourable family climate than male adolescents. It is in contrast to the hypothesis put forward on the basis of the popular beliefs. It may be due to the fact that females are getting opportunities to learn, to socialize and to express their aspirations due to affirmative policies carried out by government for gender justice. They feel psychologically excited to share their thoughts with parents, friends, teachers etc. They have explored the opportunities to show their capabilities. All these changes made them to see their family climate positively. On the other hand, male adolescents seem to share relatively less with their parents and teachers. The communication gap seems greater in case of male adolescents than female adolescents. They seem to focus more on independence than interdependence in taking decisions and so feel constrained by parents, teachers, etc. The parents put greater pressure for superior performance and prosperous career in this increasingly competitive era on male adolescents than females. It creates tension in relationships. Their traditional superiority as males is also nowadays challenged. The psychological impact of all these factors results in feeling of alienation, nervousness, loneliness, social distance etc. which in turn, contribute to the feeling of social disadvantage

In case of religion, our result contradicts the popular beliefs and the hypothesis based on it. Muslim adolescents perceive their family environment more positively and feel less disadvantaged than Hindu adolescents. In Muslim community the family size is bigger because small family norms are not yet adopted. Different socio-psychological needs of adolescents are met properly in case of Muslim adolescents due to homogeneity in social norms and traditions, community cohesiveness, relationships with peers of same religion etc. The parental aspirations from of Muslim adolescents seem to be lower. It gives them more psycho-social security in family and their own community. On the other hand, in Hindu community the educational

level of parents is relatively higher and their aspirations from children are also higher. The small family norm in educated urban Hindu families is exercised to a greater extent. The heterogeneity in community is relatively higher when compared with Muslims. All these factors may be responsible for less psychological security in Hindu families. There is a need for further research.

In case of correlation, the hypotheses that there exist significant negative correlation between social disadvantage and perception of family climate for Hindu adolescents, Muslim adolescents, Male adolescents and Female adolescents are verified. When the family climate provided is warm, facilitating, healthy and communicative, adolescents irrespective of religion or gender, respond positively. They share their concerns, whereabouts, happy moments, aspirations and mistakes freely. They learn to become a responsible team member and to be assertive. This positive family climate leads to reduce the feeling of social disadvantage.

CONCLUSIONS

- There exists a significantly negative correlation between social disadvantage and family climate for Hindu adolescents.
- There exists a significantly negative correlation between social disadvantage and family climate for Muslim adolescents.
- There exists a significantly negative correlation between social disadvantage and family climate for Male adolescents.
- There exists a significantly negative correlation between social disadvantage and family climate for Female adolescents.
- The hypothesis that the perception of family climate by Hindu adolescents is more favourable than the perception of family climate by Muslim adolescents is rejected. But the reverse directional hypothesis is verified.
- The hypothesis that the perception of family climate by Male adolescents is more favourable than the perception of family climate by Female adolescents is rejected. But the reverse directional hypothesis is verified.
- The hypothesis that the Muslim adolescents are more socially disadvantaged than Hindu adolescents is rejected. But the reverse directional hypothesis is verified.
- The hypothesis that the Female adolescents are more socially disadvantaged than male adolescents is rejected. But the reverse directional hypothesis is verified.

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RESULT TABLES

Table No. 1: The Table Showing Significant Difference Between Hindu and Muslim Adolescents and Male and Female Adolescents Regarding the SSD (Social Disadvantage).

Group		N	Mean	SD	Z	Level of Significance
Religion	Hindu	91	18.73	5.42	-2.625	Significant at.01 level
	Muslim	99	16.75	4.94		
Sex	Male	90	13.74	5.25	-1.684	Significant at.05 level
	Female	100	12.17	7.45		

Table No. 2: The Table Showing Significant Difference between Hindu and Muslim Adolescents and Male and Female Adolescents Regarding the Perception of FCS (Family Climate Scale)

Group		N	Mean	SD	Z	Level of Significance
Religion	Hindu	91	115.98	12.67	-3.098	Significant at.01 level
	Muslim	99	121.93	13.81		
Sex	Male	90	122.68	15.28	-2.02	Significant at.05 level
	Female	100	126.68	11.69		

Table No. 3: The Table Showing Correlation between Social Disadvantage and Perception of Family Climate among Hindu and Muslim Adolescents and Male and Female Adolescents

Group	N	Mean		SD		'r' Value	Level of Significance
		SSD	FCS	SSD	FCS		

Hindu Total	91	18.73	115.98	5.42	12.67	- .47	Significant at.01 level
Muslim Total	99	16.75	121.93	4.94	13.81	-.25	Significant at.05 level
Male Total	90	13.74	122.68	5.25	15.28	-.25	Significant at.05 level
Female Total	100	12.17	126.68	7.45	11.69	-.55	Significant at.01 level

