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Sharmista Das
M.Sc. Student, Applied
Psychology, Swami
Vivekananda University, West
Bengal, India

Dr. Papia Mukherjee
Assistant Professor of
Psychology, Swami
Vivekananda University, West
Bengal, India

The correlation between child rearing practices and gender differences on personality development among adolescence

Sharmista Das and Dr. Papia Mukherjee

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Abstract

Personality development is continuum process if resulting the dynamic from nature reciprocal of this interaction of biological nature and social situation of nurturing. Interaction gains more prominence in the nature vs. nurture theory of personality development. The present study was conducted to study the effects of child rearing practices on personality development among the adolescence in the age group from 13 to 15 years of old. Complex nature of gender bias prevailing the Indian society necessitated the need of the present study to know; (1) that personality development differs with inherent biological temperament among male and female & (2) to know whether child rearing practices are related to development of personality. 3) To know whether interface with family is differ with male and female. The present study was conducted with 139 subjects (70 male & 69 female). It was randomly drawn from different demographic variables like religion, locality, medium of learning, family income & academic failure. X2 analysis revealed no gender differences between male & female for these demographic variations. The subject were administered a Semi Structured Socio-demographic Data Sheet which was used to measure the significant differences on demographic variables & two paper pencil self-report inventory like Junior Temperament & Character Inventory (JTICI) which was used to measure the seven dimension of personality and Family Environment Scale (FES) used to measure the eight dimension of individual personality displayed in family environment. Independent t-test revealed that there was no significant difference in gender in terms of self-directedness, self-transcendence, active recreational orientation & independence. In Pearson correlation coefficient revealed the different correlation coefficient between variables under JTICI & FES separately both male & female counterpart.

The study in brief can help to understand and predict the various temperament and character patterns of male, female students (13 to 15 years) and their perception of parental interaction. It has been tried to conduct the present investigation with a specific purpose of providing information of the student of M.Sc. Applied Psychology of Swami Vivekananda University about the perception of parental interaction among 13 to 15 years students and its affect on personality. Overall it can be concluded from the result that personality disposition is different in male and female counterpart & differences were also existed in perception of family interaction.

Keywords: Personality, temperament, parent-adolescent interactions, observed behaviours gender differences

Introduction

Personality can be described as a unique pattern of behaviour to respond external stimulus. Besides many factors, to develop one's personality, Parental interaction with their child during development, is definitely has important role on it. The current study has been focused on various gaps of previous researches after assessing various factors affecting personality. In this context, this study, "The correlation between Child rearing Practices and gender differences on Personality Development among adolescence", will be a very unique approach.

There are various researches which suggest that an individual's personality gets affected by the combination of genetics and environmental factors. Temperament and Character Model of C. Robert Colinger also supports this perspective. Many psychologists, like Gordon Allport, Abraham Maslow and Carl Rogers also described the uniqueness of the individual which describes an individual's personality. Personality theories try to explain the structure

Corresponding Author:
Sharmista Das
M.Sc. Student, Applied
Psychology, Swami
Vivekananda University, West
Bengal, India

of personality by adopting various approaches such as, type, trait, trait-cum-type and developmental approaches etc. Therefore, some factors within the family like, value, belief, practices of certain behaviour, expectations, etc. helps to develop uniqueness especially during adolescent periods.

Kreppner and Lerner 1989, also suggested that factors like, perception of the parental interaction from the child's perspective, model of nature vs nurture, flexibility and plasticity of a child within the family can mold a child's behaviour and personality at the different stages of development. In addition various psychologists like, Lerner, 1989, elaborates some theories which emphasize family factors as determinants of child's personality and it also add some psychological effects on their mind.

Several studies have shown those parents are more accepting and adoptive regarding a son's maturation than a daughter's.

Studies and researches of Cooper & Grotevant, 1987; Montemayor and Brownlee, 1987; Paikoff and Brooks-Gunn, 1991, have shown some parents are more accepting and adoptive regarding a son's maturation than a daughter's. Study also revealed that parents of girls have more conservative expectations than parents of boys. On the other hand, study of Johnson and Collins, 1988 shows the impact of physical changes on adolescent's self-perception varies the way in which parents wants to view them.

Family plays a very important role to develop personality of children. D. C. Bhattacharyya, 1969^[3] wrote in his book, Bhattacharyya, D. C. (1969)^[3], Sociology (first edition), that family is the main unit of every society. It is a primary group which forms a society. All members of a society do not have identical personality. All Indians are not equally unclean, nor are all Indians equally unpunctual. This is due to difference of cultural experiences in family within a society. If we move from family to family, we shall find interesting differences in the personality traits of the members of different families.

His roles which affect his personality. It is also seen by several studies that, the younger child becomes over-dependent as they treated with affection by everyone. On the other hand, the eldest becomes tyrant, bossy, self-sufficient.

The study revealed by Katz, Steven H, 1999, is that the parental interaction, left the greatest impact on the emotional aspect of personality. In that case, too much affectionate nurturance of the parent can affects in a long way. Therefore, adolescents will grow into aggressive or neurotic or stubborn, is depends upon their parental interaction with them. The study also revealed that the parents put very important influence in an adolescent's life.

Our personalities depends on unique situations and environments that help to shape it. Such things as having abusive parents, or neglected parents, who puts in danger to their child can leave mental scars that make the child fearful, less confidence, less trusting. It may have a major impact on the rest of their lives and affect their personalities. In case of only child, often it is seen that the child don't learn how to compromise or share things compared to the child who have several siblings.

Despite of being nourished by the same parents, sometimes children receive different messages from their parents, as parents adopt new things by the time. They become more mature and experienced with their growing age. Even physical, psychological, financial changes also occurs in different stages of life.

Thus different siblings are nurtured in different way by their parents. Often children are encouraged to prepare for their future in jobs fitting their gender. Boys get more freedom to experiment new things. Boys also can participate in physically risky activities. On the other hand, girls are encouraged to be engaged in indoor activities. Thus society set a norms for boys and girls to play their roles appropriately. Through an intensive literature search, Belsky concluded that, parent child relations exists as a determinants of Personality.

From the point of view of Cardillo's it was also noticed on his book, "Intimate Relationships: Personality Development through Interaction during Early Life", that intimate relationship in the early stages of a child, such as parents-child, friendships, peer group interaction and other socialization helps to determine the child's personality.

Through several researches, it is found that, there are twofold interaction are observed between parental behaviours on their child. The child experiences both positive-affective-supportive behavior and controlled-authoritative-abusive behavior. It is also noticed that, supportive behavior of parents or care giver, Helps to develop positive personality in any socio-cultural boundaries.

Different researchers observed that development of later behavioural disturbance to any stressful events is associated with temperamental characteristics at early childhood. In addition, temperament and characteristics of adolescents may be related with coping skill, adjustment adherence and social changes.

Objective

This study is an attempt to understand the correlation between Child rearing Practices and gender differences on Personality Development among adolescence.

Methodology

The present study was based on cross sectional co-relational study design as well as comparative study. Participants completed a semi structured socio-demographic data sheet and 2 paper-pencil self-report questionnaires.

Site and Population

The participants were drawn randomly from three districts: Kolkata, Howrah, North 24 pgs. The total sample size (N=150) was divided into two stratum where, 75 male stratum and 75 female stratum ranging in age from 13 to 15 were selected. As the structure of personality and changes in mental well-being occurs during mid-adolescence period in maximum cases.

Sampling Design

Purposive Sampling method was used for this study. None of the participants were reported any major psychiatric or medical problems. This study included five between-subjects independent variables (religion, socioeconomic status, medium of learning, locality and gender), one within-subjects independent variable (failure vs non failure), eight independent variable within-subjects family members (cohesion, expressiveness, conflict, acceptance & caring, independence, active recreational orientation, organization, control) and seven dependent variables (novelty seeking, Harm avoidance, reward dependence, persistence, self-directedness, cooperativeness, self-transcendence).

Various descriptive analysis were conducted to identify item frequency, percentages, item mean scores and standard deviations (sd). Analysis of two stratum (cross sectional vs comparison) was done among religion (Hindu vs Muslim), locality (Kolkata vs Howrah vs North 24 pgs), medium of learning (English medium vs Bengali medium), socioeconomic status (low, medium low, medium high, high), failure status (failure vs not failure) to get main effects and comparison with respect to the total variable by Chi-square Test (Pearson Chi-square Test). Cross tabs were done between religion, locality, medium of learning, socioeconomic status and failure with gender separately. Finally the intention of this study was in the significance of the differences between mean scores of both independent variables and dependent variables. All significant effects were followed up with T-Test.

Tool and Scale

Participants completed a semi structured socio-demographic data sheet and 2 paper-pencil self-report questionnaires. The Semi Structured Socio-demographic Data Sheet includes age, sex, academic qualifications, religion, address, family members, monthly family income, academic failure, physical or psychological problems. The Junior Temperament and Character Inventory (JTCI) was used to assess temperament and character dimensions. Family Environment Scale (FES) by Moos (1974) was used to assess various dimensions like relationship, personal growth, system maintenance, organization and control.

Data collection:

The data were collected between November 2023, December 2023 and January 2024. Initially 150 participants were given these questionnaires. After getting their consent, however, 139 participants returned those test booklets where 70 was male participants and 69 was female participants. However none of the data were found to be invalid, so all 139 data was taken for final analysis. At times 1, 2 & 3 assessments of the participating students were conducted during 40 minutes to participate in the study. They had to complete 3 questionnaires at that time. After the students were given the questionnaires, they were described the instructions properly for completing the questionnaires & to fulfil the purpose of the study.

Statistical Analysis

At first all scores were distributed with respect to each of the variables. Then percentage of each variable was calculated. Then means & standard deviations (SD) for the obtained scores with respect to each of the variables were calculated. Pearson Chi-square co-relation test was used to see the pattern of relationship between different variables under this study and all data were also co-related by this test. T-Test was calculated to see the significant mean difference of the present data. For discrete variables like gender, religion, family income, locality, medium of learning and academic failure, X2 test was calculated. On the other hand, for continuous variables t-test was calculated to see the group differences. To see the relationship between family interaction & temperament and character, Pearson correlation was conducted.

Results

The purpose of the study was five fold. The first purpose was to find out the significant difference between male and female on demographic variables includes age, sex,

academic qualification, religion, address, family members, monthly family income, academic failure, medical or psychological problems, any physical problem, under medical supervision. A Semi Structured Socio-demographic Data Sheet was used to find out the significant difference. Cross tabs were done between religion, locality, medium of learning, socio-economic status and failure with gender separately. Finally the intention of this study was in the significance of the differences between mean scores of both independent variables and dependent variables. X2 test was calculated to find out the significant difference. Overall demographic data shows that male and female were significantly matched in terms of demographic variables. Pearson Chi-square correlation test was used to see the pattern of relationship between different variables under this study and all data were also co-related by this test. T-Test was calculated to see the significant mean difference of the present data. Various descriptive analysis were conducted to identify item frequency, percentages, item mean scores and standard deviations (SD). The second purpose was to find out the gender differences in personality disposition in adolescence. Junior Temperament & Character Inventory (JTCI) was conducted to solve this purpose. For Temperament & Character variables t-test was calculated to see the group differences. The result revealed various significant differences on Temperament & Character domain between male and female. Overall result of JTCI, it is revealed that female students scores higher in maximum domain of temperament and character than their male counterpart. The third purpose was to find out the perception of family interaction in adolescence. Family Environment Scale (FES) was conducted to solve this purpose. For Family Environment variables t-test was calculated to see the group differences. Overall result of FES, it is revealed that female students scores higher in maximum domain of family environment than their male counterpart. The fourth purpose was to find out the correlation coefficient of various temperament and character domains with family environment domain of male students. Significant differences were found out between temperament and character domains with family environment domain in maximum cases of male students in this result. The fifth purpose was to find out the correlation coefficient of various temperament and character domains with family environment domain of female students. Significant differences were found out between temperament and character domains with family environment domain in minimum cases of female students in this result. To see the relationship between family interaction & temperament and character, Pearson correlation was conducted. Participants were representative of the population in terms of age, sex, socioeconomic status, religion, medium of learning, failure, family members. None of the participants were reported any major psychiatric or medical problems. Overall the result revealed that personality disposition affects by the family environment and as well as family interaction higher in male students than the female counterpart.

Discussion and Conclusion

The purpose of this present study was to observe the gender differences in personality disposition and perception of family interaction in adolescence by using a research design that attempted to alleviate past limitations of adolescent's perspectives and also by examining differences between male and female perception of their family environment which is related to their temperament and character.

In this cross sectional, co-relational and comparative study consisted of 139 sample size where 69 female and 70 male were presented. Purposive sampling method was used for this study. 139 voluntary students were completed structured socio-demographic data sheet, junior temperament and character inventory (JTCI) and family environment scale (FES). In all scores, discrete variables were calculated by x² method and continuous variable was calculated by t test method to see group differences. Overall demographic data shows that male and female were significantly matched in terms of demographic variables it means that sample size was almost equally distributed between male and female stratum.

In temperament and character domain, overall male who reported experiencing high levels of novelty seeking (NS) than overall female adolescent students. It means that male has related to low dopaminergic activity. They may engage in extremely high-risk activities or abuse substances. Novelty-seeking is characterized by a tendency to get excited in response to new experiences. (Dr. Audrain-McGovern, Dr. Tercyak, and colleagues, 2003). Harm avoidance score was also low in male students. Some case-control studies have shown that alcoholism is associated with low harm-avoidance (HA) and high novelty-seeking (NS). (Mitsuru Kimura, chief of the department of psychiatry and section of behavioral science at the National Hospital Organization, 2009). This result supports the hypothesis that high novelty seeking is independently associated with risk of alcohol related problems. Todd B. Kashdan and Stefan G. Hofmann; 2007, revealed in their study of the high-novelty seeking high-novelty seeking and generalized social anxiety disorder, that Women were scored low in the high-novelty-seeking group. Therefore the present findings support the previous research. Female students scored significantly higher in comparison to their male counterpart on the domain of persistence. The present findings supports the previous research of M Medrona *et al.* 2003, studied about Mating system, sex ratio, and persistence of females in the gynodioecious shrubs *Daphne Laureolal* and was revealed that female possesses high persistence factor.

That female possesses high persistence factor addition female reported experiencing high levels of co-operation than males. It indicates that female is more co-operations in this age comparing to male of the same age group. In the present study Temperament domain like Harm avoidance, Reward Dependence, Self-directedness and Self-transcendence were at the same level in both the group of male and. So the present findings show the equal potentialities in character of these domains among adolescence. In this case male and female adolescence both possess same temperament and characteristics. The present findings do not support previous research of Coward, Dorisd (1996) who revealed. In his study that female gender has higher Self Transcendence factor.

In family environment domain overall female reported experiencing high level of conflict, acceptance, cohesion, organization, caring, and control. Present study reveals that female of this age group has the ability of Stickiness together and to associate a union to get closer to each other. Conflict means actual or perceived opposition of needs, values and interests. Conflict many social aspects of social life such as social disagreement, resolution, goal-seeking capability etc. According to Thomas and Kilmann (1976),

conflict can be addressed. In five basic ways like accommodation, avoidance, collaboration, compromise and competition. All these aspects are high in family. Previous result does not support the present findings. Maya Dekovic *et al.* (1995) in their study revealed an increase in conflict in mother adolescent relationships during early adolescent among male and female. [Montemay or, 1986]. The present study shows that female are more caring in all spheres than male in this age. They have socially organization power in socially better than male also and the capability of acceptance better than male. However both the groups are equal in active recreational orientation and independence. Hence the present study does not support the previous research of G.A. King *et al.* (2006) who revealed. In their study that there are differences between boys and girl in active recreational orientation. Female students show a higher trend of expressiveness. They are demonstrative, descriptive, exhibit, empathetic, forceful, clear, imaginative, lively, meaningful and vivid.

Turning to the factor correlation pattern between, the two dimension of the temperament and character with family environment between novelty seeking with conflict and active Recreational Orientation in both male and female adolescence. The explanation of Holm home back, 1996; Paikoff and brooks-Gunn, 1991 is the frequency of conflicts between parents and children appear to pick during early adolescence supports that the relationship between these two domains with novelty seeking appears with age and situation. In addition the temperament domain Novelty seeking was found to be significantly negatively correlated with the family Environment domain of cohesion, acceptance and caring and control in female students. However male students did not show any significant difference of Harm Avoidance domain with those domains. Again the temperament domain of Harm Avoidance was only found to be significantly correlated with the domain of conflict and Independence among female students. The domain cooperativeness shows significantly positive correlation with expressiveness, conflict, acceptance and caring and active Recreational orientation among female. On the other hand, the temperament domain of self-Transcendence was found to be significantly negatively correlated with cohesion, conflict and Acceptance and caring among females. The Temperament domain Persistence, Self-Directedness, Cooperation and Self-Transcendences also did not show any significant correlation with any of the domains of Family Environment. Taken together, these findings suggest that adolescent perceives that is really going on in the home, but more with how they personally perceive their family environment. The present findings have a support of the study of Coward, Dorisd, 1996; who revealed in their study that moderate correlation with Self- transcendence and female gender was strongly correlated with cohesion.

In nutshell, the present study suggests that there is gender difference in personality disposition and the perception of family environment of adolescence. Overall the result revealed that personality disposition affects by the family environment and as well as family interaction higher in male students than the female counter part.

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Appendixes

Table 1: The demographic table of male and female showing percentage & significant difference between various demographic variables

	Male	Female	<i>t</i> /x ²	P
RELIGION				
HINDU	(46.0%)	(46.8%)		.619
MUSLIM	(3.6%)	(3.6%)	.001	
Total	(46%)	(46.8%)	(df-> 1)	(P>.05)
LOCALITY				
SOUTH 24 PGNS	(50.7%)	48.6%		
HOWRAH	(4.3%)	5.7%		
NORTH 24 PGNS	(44.9%)	45.7%	.166	.920
Total	(49.6%)	(50.4%)	(df-> 2)	(P >.05)
MEDIUM				
ENGLISH	18.8%	24.3%		
BENGLI	81.2%	75.7%	.609	.283
Total	(49.6%)	(50.4%)	(df->1)	(P>.05)
FAMILY INCOME				
< 5000	29%	31.4%		
5000-10000	24.6%	31.4%	2.529	
10000-15000	18.8%	10%	(df->3)	.470
>15000	27.5%	27.1%		(P>.05)
Total	(49.6%)	(50.4%)		
FAILURE				
FAILURE	18.8%	12.9%		.232
NO FAILURE	81.2%	87.1%	.934	(P>.05)
Total	(49.6%)	(50.4%)	(df->1)	

Table 2: Mean & standard deviation (sd) various temperament & character domain among male & female

TEMPERAMENT AND CHARACTER DOMAIN	MALE		FEMALE		t (df- 137)	Significant (2 tailed)
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD		
<i>Novelty Seeking</i>	8	3	6	3	3.6	.000 ($<.001$)
<i>Harm Avoidance</i>	8.47	3.51	9.07	3.5	-1.003	0.318 (7.05)
<i>Reward Dependence</i>	4.87	1.55	5.11	1.59	-.819	0.414 (7.05)
<i>Persistence</i>	3.96	1.29	4.64	1.10	-3.374	0.001($<.01$)
<i>Self-Directedness</i>	11.67	3.16	11.67	2.70	-.010	0.997 $>.05$
<i>Cooperation</i>	13.03	2.73	13.87	2.33	-1.949	0.058(Ns)
<i>Self-transcendence</i>	4.64	2.29	4.63	1.78	0.026	0.979 $>.05$

Table 3: Mean & standard deviation (sd) of various family & environment domain among male & female

FAMILY ENVIRONMENT DOMAIN	MALE		FEMALE		t (df-137)	Significant (2 tailed)
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD		
<i>Cohesion</i>	44.55	7.48	50.50	8.80	-4.503	0.000 ***
<i>Expressiveness</i>	29.21	4.21	30.64	5.15	-1.913	.058 *
<i>Conflict</i>	39.86	5.86	42.93	6.24	-2.994	0.003 **
<i>Acceptance and Caring</i>	40.71	6.78	43.90	7.1	-2.708	.008 *
<i>Active Recreational Orientation</i>	28.22	4.26	29.11	5.05	-1.131	.260 *
<i>Independence</i>	29.10	4.23	29.26	3.97	-.717	.475 *
<i>Organisation</i>	7.35	1.66	8.17	1.83	-2.774	.006 **
<i>Control</i>	13.97	2.92	15.36	2.57	-2.974	.003 **

****P<.05

*P<NS

**P<.01

***P<.001

Table 4: Correlation coefficient between temperament and character & family environment domain among male

<i>Temperament & Character</i>	<i>Cohesion</i>	<i>Expressiveness</i>	<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Acceptance & Caring</i>	<i>Independence</i>	<i>Reward Dependence</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Control</i>
<i>Novelty Seeking</i>	-.214	-.136	-.243*	-.137	-.117	-.236 *	.073	.001
<i>Harm Avoidance</i>	-.059	-.137	-.108 .	-.046	-.025	-.217	-.218	-.075
<i>Reward Dependence</i>	.034	.247*	.113	.022	-.026	-.003	.051	.112
<i>Persistence</i>	-.041	-.048	.114	.001	-.023	.046	.024	.015
<i>Self-Directedness</i>	-.003	.026	.064	.049	.046	.190	-.073	.065
<i>Cooperativeness</i>	.110	.046	-.050	.087	-.062	.117	.164	.143
<i>Self-Transcendence</i>	.022	.185	.077	.135	.211	-.095	.095	-.040

*P<NS

**P<.01

***P<.001

****P<.05

Table 5: Correlation coefficient between temperament and character & family environment domain among female

<i>Temperament & Character</i>	<i>Cohesion</i>	<i>Expressiveness</i>	<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Acceptance & Caring</i>	<i>Independence</i>	<i>Reward Dependence</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Control</i>
<i>Novelty Seeking</i>	-.275*	-.178	-.297*	-.385**	-.170	-.258 *	-.030	-.354**
<i>Harm Avoidance</i>	-.196	-.207	-.242*	-.200	-.147 *	-.159	-.208	-.082
<i>Reward Dependence</i>	0.043	0.072	0.025	0.062	0.031	0.167	0.075	0.002
<i>Persistence</i>	0.132	0.261 *	0.204	0.248 *	0.098	0.302 *	-0.068	0.219
<i>Self-Directedness</i>	0.200	0.041	0.215	0.155	0.38	0.070	0.160	-.055
<i>Cooperativeness</i>	.177	.249*	.269*	.265*	.030	.274*	.107	.214
<i>Self-Transcendence</i>	-.284*	-.067	-.386**	-.376**	-.010	-.047	-.109	-.186

*P<NS

**P<.01

***P<.001

****P<.05