



CHETANA
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF EDUCATION (CIJE)

Peer Reviewed/Refereed Journal

(ISSN: 2455-8729 (E) / 2231-3613 (P))

Impact Factor
SJIF 2023 - 7.286



Prof. A.P. Sharma
Founder Editor, CIJE
(25.12.1932 - 09.01.2019)

First draft received: 12.06.2023, Reviewed: 18.06.2023, Accepted: 26.06.2023, Final proof received: 30.06.2023

Impulsiveness, Social Maturity and Parenting Support among Adolescents

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Abstract

Adolescence phase of life is characterized by change in every aspect of human development like physical, intellectual, social and emotional. The present study was conducted to know the impulsiveness, social maturity and parenting support in male and female adolescents and to find out how impulsiveness among adolescents is related to their social maturity and parenting support. The sample comprised of adolescents of 20 schools of Tarn Taran district. The present study was descriptive in nature in which simple random technique was used to collect data. Data was collected by using three standardized questionnaires pertaining to impulsiveness, social maturity and parenting support. The findings of this study revealed that there is a significant difference in impulsiveness between male and female adolescents but there is no significant difference in social maturity and parenting support among adolescents on the basis of gender.

Keywords : Impulsiveness, Social Maturity, Parenting Support, Adolescents etc.

Introduction

Adolescence period is the period of stress and strain. It is the transitional stage of development. This is the period which begins with puberty and ends with the general recession of growth. It emerges from childhood and merges into adulthood. The rapid physical growth brings about moodiness, irritability, emotional tensions and restlessness. During this period bodily growth in general is slows down, but at the same time, the maturation of the reproductive function takes place. Adolescence period is characterized by change in every aspect of human development like physical, intellectual, social, and emotional.

This stage is responsible for the growth of boys in manhood and the girls into womanhood. Everything in the world is strange and puzzling to the adolescent. The psycho-semantic conditions of the person are disturbed and they are found to be emotionally unstable. They are irritated and moody. Their feelings are always very tender and overwhelming. They fluctuate very often and swing

from elation to despair very rapidly. The adolescents are very touchy and sensitive. They become introvert and moves in the inner world. They are generally in the thinking mood. Sometimes they are over confident and sometimes much depressed. They are highly critical in nature. Their moodiness, nervousness, instability of behaviour, aggressive and hostility may be due to some persisting emotional problems.

During adolescence the shift of interest from the family to the world outside is continued. During this stage the relations of adolescents with their parents undergo a definite change but they are also very keen to confirm to the demands of their peers. Actions and opinions of their parents become now a matter of criticism for them. As far as the intellectual development is concerned there is great intellectual awaking but it does not show the same positive acceleration found in physical traits in this period. However, like other aspects of growth, it reaches the final stage late in adolescence. There are some problems found in adolescents. Some needs

and goals of life appear to be major source of many emotional problems of adolescents. These needs emerge from the philosophy of the adolescents and force them to seek satisfaction of their goals. Failure to achieve this, results in frustration which is expressed in various kinds of emotional problems as need for social status, acceptance and security, the desire for social approval and social acceptance is very strong in almost all the teenagers.

Adolescents also have desire of acceptance and security. Their behaviour is strongly motivated by these needs and related desires. If they are placed in situation which frustrates these needs, they experience a deep sense of insecurity and worthlessness. There are many school situations which are seen by adolescents as threat to their social status and to their sense of security. Fear of failure in examination, fear of losing good grades and obtaining poor marks, fear of losing the sympathy of teacher, fear of being not liked by classmate are intensely painful as all these grow out of an imagined frustration of the need for status and security. These fears may appear in the form of hostility, aggression, irritability, isolation, anxieties, pessimistic feelings, shyness, over-criticalness and many other kinds of emotional behaviour. Love and affection are basis of emotional security, deprivation of which is reflected in many emotional problems among adolescents.

They are worried about their personal appearance. It influences their personal and social development. It differentiates the children behavior from adulthood behaviour. Acting on the spur of the moment without keeping in mind its pros and cons is another important feature of adolescents. Eysenck a famous psychologist defines impulsiveness as risk taking, Learner's dictionary defines impulsiveness as acting suddenly without thinking carefully about that might happen because of what one's doing. It has been characterized as an inability of appropriate behaviour and acting without forethought or sufficient information. Claudia, M. (2004) has conducted study on the impact of impulsiveness on the adolescents and found certain negative outcomes of impulsiveness like drinking alcohol, smoking rash driving, getting into a fight and having unprotected sexual intercourse. There are persistent symptoms of violent and impulsiveness behaviour, when the child hits others, breaks things, quarrels or uses abusive language, creates scenes, throws himself on the ground, and so on.

Impulsive adolescents are in conflict with all forms of authority and are at war with relatives, teachers, classmates and society at large. They do not do well in the school work and are not responsive to natural demands of the people around them. Their attitude is that of suspicion, hostility and revengefulness and they look upon others as enemies. They are internally disturbed and insecure. There are some causes of Impulsiveness as Family maladjustments, parents sometimes gives preference to one child as compared to other. lack of harmony between father and mother , ill-treatment of a step mother or a step

father, over protection or under protection by parents, lack of co-curricular activities and hobbies in the school to keep him usefully occupied, injury to feelings of self -respect of the youth from teachers or elders, snubbing of intelligent students, undue favouritism shown at school or at home by teachers or parents and repeated failure in exams etc.

Besides these factors, a repressive atmosphere in the class, chronic illness, endocrine imbalance, and other physical handicaps can also give rise to impulsiveness in adolescents. Apart from this social immaturity is the reason of impulsiveness. There are some remedials to tackle this trait of impulsiveness. The parents of the adolescents should be supportive. Parents should change the environment of the family. In case the family environment is undesirable, healthy change in the same is necessary. Let the parents reform themselves if they want to reform their child. Parental love and sympathy should be given to the child. Parents should keep control on their children to keep them away from bad company. If the child has fallen into bad company s/he is to be taken out of it. Culture of a nation play significant role in creating trait like impulsiveness as the Hawkes.(2008) has conducted study on the condition of adolescents in America. Their culture provides them a lot of freedom due to this they indulge in extra marital affairs and gambling. Result show that school and parents can major role in reducing such negative outcomes among adolescents.

Apart from the parenting support , social maturity also play an important role in reducing impulsiveness. The modern aim of education is the wholesome balanced and harmonious development of personality. It means moral, social spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical development. All these aspects are equally important for the personality development. Personality development does not exist in a vacuum but to large extent depend upon social environment. Man is social being. One cannot live without society. It is the society that makes individual cultured, almost everything one acquires from the society. Development is essential aspect for the individual as well as for the process of socialization

Social maturity is one of the educationally significant and important aspects of human growth. The word social maturity is comprised of two words social and maturity. Social means living in communities and maturity mean to adjust themselves to the social world around them. Desire to keep pace in social life, sense of fair plays is called socially mature. Sorenson gives view that social maturity means the increasing ability to get along with oneself and other. Social growth occurs on account of social functioning under a particular set of circumstances. The social maturity refers to attaining maturity in social relationship, Good relationship with family, neighbours and other persons living in one's society. A person having a

quality of friendliness, adjustability not stiff or hard is socially mature. Social maturity produces a climate of trust, harmony, active cooperation and peaceful co-existence. Socially immaturity on the other side produce a climate of fear, discard and confrontation.

A socially mature adult exhibits a few important characteristics eg they are able to adapt themselves successfully among fellowmen. It includes such behavioral forms as group compatibility, kindness and sympathy, fair play, emotional adjustability, courtesy and politeness, dependability, self-confidence, co-operation, leadership and cheerfulness. When adolescent become socially mature there occurs so many changes in his body and behaviour. Tissot (2006) found that many physical and emotional changes occur due to the process of social maturity. A socially mature individual should be able to make judgements, decisions and take proper action in the face of problems and critical issues. There are some factors which affect the social maturity Heredity is sometimes mentioned as a determinant of social development. Actually, it is individual differences or the differential family status that affects the social development of different children in the same family. Imitation and identification of children with the parents' playmates and siblings is another factor. It is because of these factors that boys attain social adjustment of the type that is shown by fathers.

A well-knit family, with socially adjusted members, has a different effect from the one which is loosely knit and whose members are not well-adjusted. In a closely knit family, social reactions are easily emotionalized by children. If the child is treated with love, they become secure and self-confident, independent. Results show that social maturity in the adolescents helps adolescents in reducing impulsiveness to large extent.

Parenting support helps children and give them a sense of direction. Diana Baumrind identified four pattern of parenting style based upon two aspects of parenting behaviour i.e control and warmth. Parental control refers to the degree to which parents manage adolescents' behaviour from being very controlling to setting few rules and demands. Parents play important role in guiding adolescents to remain away from the negative outcomes of this crucial stage. Kimberly Kopko (2004) has also supported this view through his study on parenting styles and adolescents. As adolescence is portrayed as the stressful for the parents as well as for the adolescents. So many negative outcomes take place which can be reduced if parents have knowledge of these normative development changes and parenting styles. Parents are supposed to create most congenial happy, democratic, lucid and warm atmosphere where a child can express his own hidden potentialities. Present study was conducted to know the significant difference in impulsiveness, social maturity and parenting support among male and female adolescents.

Statement of the problem

The present study aims to find out gender differences in impulsiveness, social maturity and parenting support among adolescents Therefore problem is stated as *Impulsiveness, Social Maturity and Parenting Support among Adolescents*.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the impulsiveness, social maturity and parenting support among adolescents.
2. To find out the difference in impulsiveness, social maturity and parenting support among adolescents on the basis of gender.
3. To examine the relationship between impulsiveness and social maturity among adolescents.
4. To examine the relationship between impulsiveness and the parenting support adolescents.

Hypothesis of the study

1. There exists no significant difference in impulsiveness between male and female adolescents.
2. There exists no significant difference in social maturity between male and female adolescents.
3. There exists no significant difference in parenting support between male and female adolescents.
 - (a) There exist no significant difference in mothering among male and female adolescents.
 - (b) There exist no significant difference in fathering among male and female adolescents.
 - (c) There exist no significant difference in parenting among male and female adolescents.

Delimitation of the Study

1. The study was delimited to 200 adolescents of government schools of Taran Taran district only.
2. The study was delimited to adolescents of class 9th only.

Research Method

The present study was aimed to study impulsiveness among adolescents in relation to social maturity and parenting support. For this purpose, descriptive method of research was adopted in the present study.

Sampling

In the present study collection of data was required to assess impulsiveness among adolescents in relation to social maturity and parenting support, for this purpose simple random technique was applied for the collection of data. The sampling

frame of this study comprised of adolescents of 9th class. A sample of the 200 adolescents from government schools, Tarn Taran was taken, out of which 100 were male and 100 were females.

Tools used

Following tools were used to collect required information:

1. Impulsiveness Scale by Dr. S. N. Rai (1988)
2. Parenting Scale by R. L. Bharadwaj (1998)
3. Social Maturity Scale by Nalini Rao (1998)

Results, Discussion and Interpretation

The present study was designed to assess impulsiveness among adolescents in relation to social maturity and parenting support. On the basis of the results hypothesis were tested and conclusions were drawn.

Hypothesis: There exists no significant difference in impulsiveness among male and female adolescents.

Table 1.1 Showing Mean Scores, SD, and t-value of Impulsiveness of Male and Female Adolescents

Sample group	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Remarks
Male	100	15.16	1.68	3.36	Significant**
Female	100	14.35	1.72		

Significant at 0.01 level

Interpretation

It is evident from the mentioned table that the mean score for the difference in impulsiveness of male and female adolescents came out to be 15.16 and 14.35 respectively. The calculated t-value for the impulsiveness of male and female adolescents came out as 3.36 and table value is 1.97 and 2.60 at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance respectively. The calculated value 3.36 is significant at 0.05 and 0.01 Level. Therefore the hypothesis that 'there exists no significant difference in impulsiveness among male and female adolescents is not accepted. This shows that there is significant difference in impulsiveness among male and female adolescents. Generally, adolescence is defined as transitional stage of the life. Although it brings changes in both male and female. But due to the male dominated society male have more impulsiveness than female.

Hypothesis 2 There exists no significant difference in social maturity among male and female adolescents.

Table 1.2 Showing Mean Score, SD, t-value of Social Maturity of Male and Female Adolescents

Sample group	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Remarks
Male	100	209.22	13.38		Insignificant

Female	100	208.4	13.77	0.424	
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Insignificant at 0.05 level

Interpretation

The above-mentioned table shows that the mean score for the difference in social maturity of male and female adolescents is 209.2 and 208.4 respectively. The calculated t-value for the social maturity of male and female adolescents came out as 0.424 whereas the table value is 1.97 and 2.60 at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance. As the calculated value is smaller than the table value, hence the hypothesis i.e. There exists no significant difference in social maturity among male and female adolescents is accepted. This shows that there is no significant difference in social maturity among male and female adolescents. The investigator is of the view that such results came out because gender does not play any significant role in determining social maturity among adolescents, rather family environment, type of upbringing and circumstances in general plays a very significant role in making an individual socially mature.

Hypothesis 3 There exists no significant difference in parenting support among male and female adolescents.

Hypothesis 3 (A) There exists no significant difference in Mothering among male and female adolescents.

Table 1.3 Showing Mean Scores, SD, t-value of Mothering among Male and Female Adolescents

Sample group	N	Mean	S.D	t-value	Remarks
Male	100	104.51	6.167	0.25	Insignificant
Female	100	104.29	6.184		

Insignificant at 0.05 level

Interpretation

Above given table indicates that the mean score for mothering between male and female found to be 104.51 and 104.29. The t-value was found as 0.25 which is insignificant at 0.05 and 0.01 Level. Hence the hypothesis that 'there exists no significant difference in mothering among male and female adolescents is accepted. It shows that mothers deal equally with male and female adolescents in the present time.

Hypothesis 3(b): There exist no significance difference in fathering between male and female adolescents.

Table 1.4 Showing Mean Scores, SD, t-value of Fathering of Male and Female Adolescents

Sample	N	Mean	SD	t-	Remarks

Group				Value	
Male	100	105.49	7.014	0.03	Insignificant
Female	100	105.52	6.840		

Insignificant at 0.05 level

Interpretation

It is the evident from the above mentioned table that the mean score for the difference in fathering of male and female adolescents came out to be 105.4 and 105.5. The calculated t-value for the fathering of male and female came out as 0.030 whereas the table value is 1.97 and 2.60 at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance. As the calculated value is smaller than the table value, hence the hypothesis i.e. there exists no significant difference in fathering among male and female adolescents is accepted. This shows that there is no significant difference in fathering among male and female adolescents. Fathers fulfill the needs of male and female adolescents equally. They give love and affection equally to both male and female.

Hypothesis 3(c): There exist no significant difference in parenting support among male and female adolescents.

Table 1.5 Showing Mean Scores, SD, t-value of Parenting among Male and Female Adolescents

Sample group	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Remarks
Male	100	14.81	2.19	0.35	Insignificant
Female	100	14.92	2.22		

Insignificant at 0.05 level

Interpretation

Above given table indicates mean scores, standard deviation and t-value. The mean score for male and female found to be 14.81 and 14.92. The calculated t-value (0.35) was found insignificant at 0.05 and 0.01 Level of significance. Therefore, the hypothesis that there exists no significant difference in parenting among male and female adolescents is accepted. The researcher is of the opinion that it may be because in educated society people do not discriminate in male and female adolescents while adopting a parenting pattern.

Conclusion

The final step of research demands critical and logical thinking in summarizing the findings of the study and compares them with the hypotheses formulated in the beginning. In the light of earlier mentioned discussion and interpretation of the data, the main findings of the study are given below:

- There is significant difference in impulsiveness among male and female adolescents. As per the

finding of the present research, male adolescents were found to be more impulsive. It may be due to trend of male dominated society.

- No significant difference was found in male and female adolescents with regard to their social maturity hence gender does not play any significant role in determining social maturity among adolescents.
- No significant difference was found in parenting support among male and female adolescents.
- No significant difference was found in mothering among male and female adolescents as mothers deal equally with male and female adolescents in the present age.
- No significant difference was found in fathering among male and female adolescents as fathers fulfill the needs of male and female adolescents equally and provides them love and affection equally.
- No significant difference was reported in parenting among male and female adolescents. It may be due to the reason that in educated society people do not discriminate between male and female adolescents with regard to adoption of parenting pattern.

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