



Influence of family relationship on self concept of adolescents: a study in Guwahati, India

Sonali Borah Sahariah¹ and Polee Saikia²

1 & 2. Department of Education, Gauhati University, Guwahati, India

Abstract

Family, the first agency through which a child learns the sociability and skills of life has been one of the key factors which shape the personality, self concept, social adjustment and other traits of a person. Adolescent period is one of the most crucial period of once life when a child experiences physical and mental changes. The way an adolescent gets counselling and support in a family determines his or her personality in later years. The present paper is an attempt to study the influence of family relationship on self concept of adolescents in Guwahati city. The study shows that there is insignificant relationship between family relationship and self concept with no significant difference between self concept of boys and girls.

Keywords: family relationship, adolescence, self concept

1. Introduction

In the education of the child, the family plays the most important role. The child is born in a family and this is the first agency through which he gets education in sociability. His social and moral development takes place first of all during his early life in the family. He becomes conversant with traditions, customs etc. from his family members. Living with them he gets the primary knowledge of desirable and undesirable behaviour patterns. He learns to look for integration in the society and the feeling of love and hate develop in him (Ross and Broh, 2000). Whatever social experience the child gets in a family, it lays the foundation of his personality. From the psychological point of view the family influences upon the child are of tremendous significance. The latent tendencies of the child first of all find expression in the family and if in the family he gets proper encouragement he is able to achieve adjustment in his adult life

(Bredehoft and Hey, 1985).

Self-concept is an important concept of any child's development. As children develop a sense of self and interact with and gain experience in the world, their self-concept is affected. The importance of self-concept within educational settings has been discussed by several scholars and has led to the performance of studies examining the role of self-concept in school performance. Self-concept is defined as the value that an individual places on his or her own characteristics, qualities, abilities, and actions. The self-concept comprises three main elements: the identity of the subject or self-image, referred to as the perceptions of him/herself; self-esteem, which is related to the value individuals attach to the particular manner in which they see themselves; a behaviour component, reflecting how self concept influences and formulates the individual's behaviour (David, 1992).

The root of self-concept lies in family experiences. A favourable home environment

constitutes of good parent child relationship. The self-concept is not a finished product at birth. But is something which develops and how it develops, what its constituent attitudes are depends upon the family in which the individual is brought up with all the social norms of the group to which the family belongs and the education and experiences of each individual. Family relationship has a great impact on self concept of adolescents.

2. Rationale of the study

The Secondary Education which serves as a bridge between primary and higher education is expected to prepare young persons' between the age group 14-18 in the world of work and entry into higher education. The Secondary Education starts with classes 8-10 leading to higher secondary classes 11 and 12. The growing aspiration of families on preparing the adolescents and youths for tertiary education and competitive market economy as well have put a premium on high quality secondary education. The demand for and expansion of secondary education that we are witnessing today are the result of namely two things, democratization of education and globalization. Three challenges facing secondary education are those of increasing access; improving quality of education and enhancing relevance of curriculum. However to a large extent the realisation of quality education as well as higher self concept among the students largely depends on family background. Understanding the link between family relationships and self concept of adolescents in a society is very necessary.

Further within the secondary education, specially High School Leaving Certificate Examination and Higher Secondary Examination stage, plays a crucial role in shaping the future career of the adolescents as many students curve out their destiny based on their results in these two stages. However their academic performance very much depend on many other factors like family relationship, school environment etc. The present study which will analyse the family relationship and its impact on social adjustment, self concept and academic performance has significance as the state of secondary education in the most of the provincialised schools are in deplorable condition. Sooner we can relate the underpinning issues related to their problems better we can manage our secondary education in shaping the adolescents. The study has further significance as a very few studies on the above mentioned topic have been carried out, specially in

our state. The study will not only explore the present scenario but also serve as a guiding line for the future research in this line.

3. Statement of the problem

Like the other parts of the country, the secondary education of the state are also not free from myriads of problems which many time hinder the students to achieve the desired objectives. Among the different factors that influence the academic performance, the family relationship is one of the very crucial in determining the level of performance of the student. The present study is an attempt to see how family relationship or parental influence can be related to self concept of higher secondary students of Kamrup District (Metro). In doing so, a survey has been conducted in the provincialised Higher Secondary schools of Kamrup District (Metro) to see how family relationship has been related to these parameters related to the students. Keeping these points in background, the present study has been entitled as **"Influence of family relationship on self concept of adolescents: A study in Guwahati, Assam, India"**.

4. Objectives of the study

1. To study the relationship that exists between family relationship and self concept of adolescents.
2. To compare the self concept scores of boys and girls.

5. Hypotheses

- There exists no significant relationship between family relationship and self concept of adolescents.
- There exists no significant difference in self concept of boys and girls.

6. Delimitations of the study

The present study has been delimited as follows:

1. The study has been delimited to four provincialised schools of Kamrup district (Metro) only.
2. Only the students of age group 16-18 years have been selected as the sample for the study.

7. Methodology

7.1 Research design

The study has been conducted through descriptive survey method.

7.2 Population

All the students of Higher Secondary 1st year from the surveyed schools have been regarded as population in this study.

7.3 Sample

The study has been conducted on a representative sample which was selected from different provincialised schools of Kamrup district (Metro). The researcher have taken 120 students (56 boys and 64 girls) from the four provincialised schools of Guwahati (Metro), Assam, India which has been selected through simple random sampling technique.

7.4 Research Tool

The following tool has been selected for the present study:

1. Self-concept questionnaire by R.K. Saraswat

7.5 Statistical Techniques

Following Statistical techniques have been used in interpreting and analyzing the collected data.

1. Simple percentage calculation
2. Mean and standard deviation
3. Correlation
4. t-test

7.6 Analysis and Interpretation of Data

The resulting data are analysed by using appropriate statistical treatment. The results have been explained below:

Objective No 1: To study the relationship that exists between family relationship and self concept of adolescents.

H₀₁: There exists no significant relationship between family relationship and self concept of adolescents.

The scores of family relationship and self concept scores have been tabulated below-

Table 1: Correlation Coefficient values between PCRS and Self Concept.

Variables	N	Mean	S.D.	df	r	Significance (2-tailed)	Remarks
Family relationship	120	249.67	36.38	118	.011	.903	Not significant
Self concept	120	171.68	12.95				

From the table 1 it has been found that the correlation coefficient for these two variables has been found as .011. Therefore the correlation of these variables at 0.05 (2-tailed) level is not significant. The null hypothesis therefore can be

accepted.

Objective 2: To compare the self concept scores of boys and girls.

H₀₂: There exists no significant difference in self concept scores of boys and girls.

Table 2: Level of Self Concept among the Boys

Range	Description	Frequency	Percentage
0-48	Low self concept	0	0
49-96	Below average self concept	0	0
97-144	Average self concept	1	2
145-192	Above average self concept	51	91
>=193	High self concept	4	7

From the table 2 it has been found that the level of self concept among the boys which are grouped in five different groups like low self concept, below average self concept, average self concept, above average self concept and high self

concept. The boys all together show a very high self concept among themselves. 91 percent show above average self concept while 7 percent show high self concept and on 2 percent show average self concept.

Table 3: Level of Self Concept among the Girls

Range	Description	Frequency	Percentage
0-48	Low self concept	0	0
49-96	Below average self concept	0	0
97-144	Average self concept	0	0
145-192	Above average self concept	60	94
>=193	High self concept	4	6

From the table 3 it has been found that the level of self concept among the girls which are grouped in five different groups like low self concept, below average self concept, average self concept, above

average self concept and high self concept. The girls too show a very high self concept among themselves. 94 percent show above average self concept while 6 percent show high self concept.

Table 4 : Comparison of Self Concept among the Girls and Boys

Variables	mean	N	SD	t	critical value	Remarks
self concept Boys	170	56	14.05	1.32	1.98	Not significant
self concept girls	173.14	64	11.83			

Table 4 above shows the level of difference of the boys and girls in terms of their self concept. The obtained t-value 1.32 is less than critical value 1.98 at 0.05. It indicates no significant difference between boys and girls on their self concept. There for the null hypothesis can be accepted.

8. Results and Discussion

On the basis of these interpretations, the major findings of the study are as follows-

8.1 Based on first objective

- In terms of family relationship and self concept the correlation coefficient has been found as .011. Therefore the correlation of these variables at 0.05 (2-tailed) level is not significant. It has been found that there is no significant relationship between family relationship and self concept of the adolescents.

8.2 Based on second objective

- From the study it has been found that the

boys all together show a very high self concept among themselves. 91 percent show above average self concept while 7 percent show high self concept and on 2 percent show average self concept.

- The investigator found that the girls too show a very high self concept among themselves. 94 percent show above average self concept while 6 percent show high self concept.
- The obtained t-value 1.32 is less than critical value 1.98 at 0.05. It indicates no significant difference between boys and girls on their self concept.

The findings of the present study resembles with the finding of research by Singh and Ahmed (2004) where they found that There is insignificant difference between the children (male) having healthy parent child relationship and the children (male) having poor parent child relationship with respect to all the

dimension of self concept.

9. Conclusion

The present study was designed to see the level of association as well as difference among the adolescents of Guwahati in terms of their self concept.

However the study results clearly show no relationship in case of self concept and family relationship. These revelations will further help in understanding the very complex relationship especially in the adolescence period in terms of growing social tension and juvenile disorder.

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