

Perceived Parental Rearing Style and Personality among Khasi Adolescents

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The present study attempts to point out the perceived parental rearing style and personality among Khasi adolescents, a distinct tribe and a matrilineal society of Meghalaya State from North-Eastern region of India. The study was conducted on a sample of 50 boys and 50 girls. The subjects were assessed with Gerlsma Perceived Parental Rearing Style (PPRSQ), Kellner symptom Questionnaire (S.Q.) and Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale. The results reveal that boys have significantly more rejection from father as compared to girls and girls have shown significantly better emotional warmth in comparison to boys from father. The boys and girls did not differ significantly on the factors over protection and favouring subjects of PPRSQ for father. No reliable difference was ascertained between boys and girls on all the factors of PPRSQ for mother. The comparison of boys and girls on anxiety, depression, somatic problems, anger hostility and self-esteem indicated significantly higher anxiety, more somatic problems and higher anger hostility among boys, and high self-esteem in girls. The study highlights the perceived parental rearing style and its effect on personality of Khasi adolescents and has educational implications for parents in Khasi society.

Keywords: Khasi adolescents, Parental rearing style, Self-esteem

Parenting style has a major influence on the development of the child and there has been a growing awareness of the importance about parenting style and its impact on the upbringing of child among researchers. Hill (1980) theorized that children of very critical parents, with unrealistically high expectations, might develop anxiety during the preschool years. Kaushik & Rani (2005) have stated that perfectionist attitude of mothers is positively related with anxiety among children. Similarly, unreasonable parental expectations; especially when accompanied by faulty parental behaviour pattern adversely affect the child's psychological wellbeing (Wang, 2002). According to Thergaonkar and Wadkar (2007), inculcating a democratic style of parenting and greater acceptance of parents among children may prevent anxiety. Much research has examined the four parenting styles developed by Baumrind (1971) and

found the authoritative parenting style is recognized as the most successful style for developing competent and confident children (Berk, 2002; Berns, 2004). Lung et al. (2004) noted that a parental bonding directly affect personality characteristics. Emmelkamp (2006) suggested that a significant amount of variance of Type A behaviour can be counted for by perceived parental characteristics, especially rejection and lack of emotional warmth and negative evaluation of children by their parents may lead to an internalized maladaptive cognitive set in the children. In a research Muris et al. (2000) found that parental rearing behaviours, in particular rejection and anxious rearing were positively associated with worry. Furnham and Cheng (2000) examined the paternal and maternal rearing styles and found that a reasonable discipline exercised by mothers toward their children was particularly beneficial in enhancing the off-

springs' self-esteem.

A close perusal of the review of studies reveals that parenting rearing style has greatest influence on the development of child personality and personality traits. Psychological literature is replete with studies regarding relationship between parental behaviours and personality traits. But studies in North-East India, particularly on Khasi population, a distinct tribe of Meghalaya is few. Therefore, the present study was undertaken to explore the parental rearing style and personality among Khasi adolescents.

Method

Sample:

The sample consists of 100 Khasi adolescents (50 Male and 50 Female) studying at plus two. The subjects were drawn randomly from various Kendriya Vidyalyaya of Shillong. The age ranged from 17 to 19 years.

Tools:

Perceived Parental Rearing Style Questionnaire (PPRSQ): It was developed by Gerlsma, Arrindel, Van Derveen, and Emmelkamp, (1971) and consists of 54 items with four alternative responses for 4 Primary Factors – Rejection (19 items), Emotional Warmth (19 items), Over Protection (1 items),

and Favouring Subjects (5 items). It is self-report measure intended to assess adolescent's recollection of their parental rearing behaviours.

Symptom Questionnaire (Kellner, 1987): It is comprised of 92 items of which 68 items are symptom items indicate Anxiety, Depression, Somatic Concern and Anger Hostility and 24 items are Anti Symptoms that indicate well-being. The subject is given a rating of 1 for each symptom that is checked 'yes' or 'true' and for each statement of well-being that is checked 'no' or 'false'. The maximum score for each symptom sub-scale is 17 and for each well-being sub-scale is 6. A higher scale score indicates more distress than the lower scale score.

Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (1965): This scale of high score indicates low self-esteem while a low score indicates high self-esteem.

Procedure:

The subjects were contacted personally in their schools for data collection. The subjects were provided basic information for each test to make them understand and how to perform.

Results

Table 1: Mean, S.D., and C.R.Values on the factors of PPRSQ for Father & Mother and on the Personality factors for Khasi Boys and Girls.

Gender	Factors of PPRSQ								Personality Factors					
	Father				Mother				A	D	S	AH	S	
	R	E	O	F	R	E	O	F						
Boys	Mean	38.96	55.66	29.72	9.00	35.96	54.28	30.12	9.00	11.24	7.68	10.60	11.00	25.24
	SD	4.87	10.17	5.08	2.51	7.07	11.22	5.36	2.54	3.20	4.48	3.65	3.42	1.75
Girls	Mean	35.32	59.00	30.88	9.96	35.68	55.12	30.84	9.44	8.96	7.05	7.6	7.91	21.80
	SD	6.41	4.03	4.02	3.25	6.18	8.35	5.69	3.21	3.83	4.07	4.40	4.13	3.09
	CR	3.64**	2.16*	1.27	1.65	.21	.43	.65	.77	3.25**	.71	3.66**	4.12**	6.88**

* p<.05 ** p<.01

R- Rejection E-Emotional Warmth O-Over Protection F-Favouring Subjects
 A-Anxiety Depression S-Somatic Concern AH-Anger Hostility S-Self-Esteem

An observation of the table indicates significant difference between Khasi male and female students on the factors Rejection and Emotional Warmth of PPRSQ for father. The Male Khasi students showed more rejection in comparison to female Khasi students whereas female Khasi students have shown better emotional warmth as compared to the male Khasi students from father. The comparisons between Khasi male and female students on the factors Over-Protection and Favouring Subjects of PPRSQ did not exhibit significant difference for father. No significant difference was obtained between male and female Khasi students on the factors of PPRSQ for mother.

The comparisons of Khasi male and female students on the personality factors reveal significantly higher anxiety, higher anger hostility, and more somatic concern in male Khasi students. The results also indicated significantly high level of self-esteem in female Khasi students.

Discussion

The results of the study enable us to conclude the trends of Perceived Parental Rearing Style and its significant effect on the personality development in male and female Khasi students. The male Khasi students showed significantly more rejection as compared to the female Khasi students while female Khasi students perceived better emotional warmth in comparison to male Khasi students from father. The results indicated no reliable difference between male and female Khasi students on the factors of PPRSQ for mother. The finding is not consistent with that of an earlier investigation carried in Mizoram by Rai (2000) who reported high rejection in Mizo girls. The rejection in male Khasi students and emotional warmth in female Khasi students from father may perhaps be the result of unique matrilineal Khasi society in North-East India. Further it may be noted that no any significant difference between Khasi male and female students on

the factors of PPRSQ for mother indicates the equal treatment and responsible behaviour from mother for both male and female children. The impact of perceived parental rearing style may be observed in order to high level of anxiety, high anger hostility and more somatic concern in male Khasi students and high self-esteem in female Khasi students may be because of more rejection in male Khasi students and more emotional warmth in female Khasi students from father. Muris et al (2000) also suggested that children who perceived their parents as more rejective and anxious reported high level of anxiety. These findings are consistent with the notion that family environment factors such as parental rearing and attachment style contribute to the severity of anxiety symptoms in children.

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