

A Developmental Investigation of Parental Occupational Status as Determinants of Repulsiveness in Real Life Situation

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Subjects (N=555) have randomly been selected from sixth class to bachelor degree. The selection of subjects has been done from developmental point of view, i.e., from sixth class (N=101), ninth class (N=217), twelfth or intermediate (N=159) and bachelor (N=78). They were asked to report about parental occupational status of the responded members on selected seven items of negative interactions from their real-life situation. It is observed that they have shown greater repulsive interaction for the members of their own occupational status or in-group. In respect to out-groups they have shown greater repulsion for parental occupational status of private occupation (PO), i.e., business and agriculture and least for the members of low status (LO). The influence of developmental stages has clearly been shown in the study. The subjects belonging to different developmental stages have shown greater repulsiveness for the members of their own occupational stages or in-group and out-group of PO, however, they have shown less repulsiveness for LO and middle, low occupation status group (MLO), in accordance with their developmental stages.

Emotions are expressed in both positive and negative directions since childhood, which directly influence decision-making and interpersonal judgment (Erber, 1991; Zajonc & Mc Intosh, 1992). Freud (1915) has accepted it as life and death instincts, which are the source of personality development. Life instincts produce attractiveness and death instinct produces repulsiveness. Repulsiveness is aroused by bad news and negative feelings leading to disliking (Dovidio et al., 1995). Repulsiveness is common, which occurs as easily as positive interactions in day-to-day life. Perceived negative emotions tend to elicit a negative stereotype (Frable, 1993). Once negative characteristics have been emerged even

after its removal, the negative affect associated with past does not necessarily go away (Rodin & Price, 1995). The major social problems of national and international level may be because of improper handling of negative feelings or repulsiveness. Negative interactions may involve in more disturbing consequences. In spite of its importance a few attempts have been made to study the determinants of negative interactions. Neuberg and his associates (1994) have pointed out that many people are unfairly disliked and avoided because of their race, physical appearance and a wide variety of other characteristics. Berscheid and Walster (1978) have reported that one third of all murders occur during

family quarrels. Singh (2002) taking caste and parental occupation as the variable has observed that attractiveness and repulsiveness have been determined on the similar principles of in-group polarization and status consciousness.

The Indian social organization was originally categorized as four Vernas on the basis of functions or occupations and not of birth, although there is a positive correlation between the family occupation and the Verna of a person (Shanker, 1988). Studies show a positive relationship between occupational status and friendship choices (Dion, 1985; Mc Kee & Smouse, 1983; Singh, 2001; 2002). High occupational status significantly influences attractiveness (Gecas & Self, 1990; Hegtvedt, 1988; Singh, 2001). Status plays a key role in our perception of whether we are being treated fairly by others (Tyler, 1994). However, status consciousness is not appearing with birth. It has its course of development having meaningful difference between younger and older children (Johnson, 1989; Kasturi & Jeesur, 1982). On the other hand no developmental trend have been observed in the strength of effective motivation (Byrne & Griffitt, 1966) and group influence (Gilford & Calston, 1975). The importance of repulsiveness for associates of different occupational status can't be rejected in the field of social psychology. However, in spite of its importance no systematic attempts have been made to study the developmental impact of subjects as the determinants of repulsiveness for parental occupational status in the real-life situation, which is the purpose of the study.

Hypotheses

It is observed that attractiveness and repulsiveness having opposite meaning and purpose are determined on the basis of similar principles (Singh, 2002). On this assumption, in course of verifying the extent to which repulsiveness are determined by

the status of parental occupation of the subjects belonging to different developmental stages, following hypotheses have been drawn:

1. The subjects would tend to express more repulsiveness within their own parental occupational status than those of out groups.
2. The subjects would tend to express more repulsion for the members of high status (HO) and less for the members of low status (LO).
3. The subject belonging to different developmental stages would tend to express the amount of repulsiveness in accordance with their developmental stages.
4. They would tend to express more repulsion for the members of their own occupational status or in-group in accordance with their developmental stages.
5. They would tend to express increasing trend of repulsiveness for out-group members of private occupation (PO) and decreasing trend of repulsiveness for the members of LO and middle low occupation (MLO) in accordance with their developmental stages.

Method

Sample

Subjects (N=555) have randomly been selected from class sixth (N=101), ninth (N=217), twelfth or intermediate (N=159) and bachelor (N=78) in the area of mixed population. They have been categorized as Grade-I, Grade-II, Grade-III and Grade-IV, respectively. As the subjects were students, occupational status of their parents has been considered for measuring their status in this study.

Procedure

The laboratory experiment for the study of social interactions in hypothetical condition (Byrne, 1971) is based on the first impression and imagination (Kelley, 1979; Levinger & Moles, 1979). The long-term effective relationship can be studied through different forms of behaviour in real-life situation, which have similar results with that of laboratory (Cunningham, 1989). In the present study, subjects have been asked to respond on seven types of negative interactions. These interaction include the persons who express or show disrespect, jealous, dissimilarity in attitude, do harm in any way to the subjects, and from whom subjects have complaint, express disliking and have family dispute in their real-life situation. They have been asked to report two names or at least one on each of the items with occupations of their parents, in which first response has been taken into consideration.

The occupational status has been determined on the basis of the judgment of two hundred subjects on five point scale

among 120 occupations known in the locality. The occupational status of the subjects and of the preferred members have been divided into five categories, i.e., high occupational status (HO); middle occupational status (MO); private occupational status (PO), i.e., business and agriculture; middle low occupational status (MLO) and low occupational status (LO), who have occupational status value above 2.50; from 2.00 to 2.50, from 2.00 to 2.40, in between 1.00 to 2.00 and below 1.00, respectively. These five categories of the subjects and of the preferred members have been considered for the column one's own occupational status or in-group. Altogether responded member have been categorized into six group, i.e., own occupational status (in-group), HO, MO, PO, MLO, and LO. The percentages of No response (NR) has also been considered for knowing the amount of repulsiveness at different developmental stages.

Table 1: Frequencies and percentages of repulsiveness obtained by the subjects of different developmental stages for responded members of different occupational status.

Categories	NR	Own	HO	MO	PO	MLO	LO	TOTAL
Grade-IIN=101 649.05%	27538.90% 707		15622.07%		405,66%	354.95%	517.21%	8612.16%
Grade-IIIN=217 19913.10%	33121.79% 1318.62%	996.52%	42628.04% 1519		20513.50%		1288,43%	
Grade-IIIIN=159 1109.88%	13512.13% 363.23%	1113	34631.09%		827.37%	11410.24%		29026.06%
Grade-IVN=78 112.01%	519.34% 546	21639.59%		397,14%	478.61%	14827.11%		346.23%
TotalN=555 68817.71%	79220.39% 3619.29%	2105.41%	114429.45% 3885		3669.42%		3248.43%	

Table 2: The Z value calculated in between the subjects of different grades for different categories of responded members on repulsiveness.

Categories	NR	HO	MO	PO	MLO	LO	In-group
Grade-I vs. Grade II	8.45**	5.52**	5.67**	4.04**	6.26**	2.76**	2.99**
Grade-II vs. Grade III	5.03**	—	—	9.77**	—	5.30**	4.20**
Grade-II vs. Grade IV	6.36**	8.83**	1.58	8.49**	1.14	2.63**	1.62*
Grade-III vs. Grade IV	1.69	—	1.68	—	2.50*	1.40	3.42**

* 0.05 level of significance and ** 0.01 level of significance

Interpretation of data: It is clear from the table-1 that the subjects have shown greater repulsion (29.45%) for the members of their own parental occupation (in-group) than out-group of PO (17.71% the next higher response). The Z value calculated for testing the reliability of difference between the percentages of in-group and PO is 12.23, significant at 0.01 level. Among the members of out-group, whose parents are in service, they have shown greater repulsion for the members of HO (9.42%) and least for the members of LO (5.41%, the Z value = 6.79, $p < 0.01$), supporting second hypotheses. In addition to this, the subjects have shown greater repulsion for out-group members of PO (17.71%), who are not in service, than those of HO (9.42%, the $Z = 10.69$, $p < 0.01$) may be because of their low educational and cultural levels.

The subjects belonging to different developmental groups have shown similar trend of repulsiveness for in-group and of out-group having status consciousness. However, they have shown differentiation in the area of the amount of repulsiveness, trend of responses for in-group and for out-group of PO, MLO, and LO. The subjects belonging to Grade-I have shown greater percentages of NR (38.90%) than the subjects of Grade-II (21.79%, the next higher) and least NR by the subjects of

Grade-IV (9.34%). The Z value calculated in between the percentages of NR shown by different grades are significant (Table-2). The minimum difference shown in between the percentages of NR shown by the subjects of Grade-III (12.13%) and Grade-IV (9.43%, $Z = 1.69$, $p < 0.01$) is also, near significant level. The above interpretations of NR clearly show that the subjects belonging to lower class have shown less expression on repulsive items than those of higher classes. They have shown a tendency for expressing the amount of repulsiveness in accordance with their developmental stages supports the third hypotheses.

The subjects have clearly shown developmental trend in their repulsiveness for their own parental occupational status (in-group). They have shown their amount of in-group polarization on repulsive items in accordance with their developmental stages (Table-1). The subjects belonging to Grade-I have shown lowest (22.07%) and the subjects belonging to Grade-IV have shown highest (39.56%) repulsiveness for the members of in-group. The subjects belonging to Grade-III (31.09%, the minimum gap) have shown greater repulsiveness for the members of in-group than those of Grade-II (28.04%, the $Z = 4.20$, $p < 0.01$). All the Z value calculated for testing the reliability of difference in between the

repulsiveness shown for the members of in-group by the subjects of different grades are significant (Table-2), supporting the hypotheses, i.e., higher the developmental stages greater the repulsiveness shown for in-group and lower the developmental stages lower the repulsiveness shown by them for the members of in-group. The amount of repulsiveness has been shown in accordance with their developmental stages.

The developmental trends have clearly been shown in their repulsiveness for the members of out-group of PO, MLO and of LO. They have shown increasing rate of repulsiveness for the out-group of PO and decreasing rate of repulsiveness for the members of LO and MLO, in accordance with their developmental stages. The subject belonging to Grade-I have shown less repulsion for the members of PO (7.21%) than those of Grade-II (13.10, $Z = 4.04$, $p < 0.01$). Similarly the subjects belonging to Grade-II (13.10%) have also shown less repulsiveness for the members of PO than those of Grade-III (26.06%, $Z = 8.49$, $p < 0.01$). this developmental trend has not significantly been shown by the subjects of Grade-IV, which require to be tested in future study. However, in showing their repulsiveness for out-group of MLO and LO, it is just in reverse direction. For example, the subjects belonging to Grade-I have shown repulsiveness for the members of LO (9.05%) than the subjects of Grade-II (6.52%, $Z = 2.26$, $p < 0.05$). Similarly the subjects belonging to Grade-II (6.52%) have also shown greater repulsiveness for the members of LO than those of Grade-III (3.23%, $Z = 2.63$, $p < 0.01$). Likewise the repulsiveness shown for the members of PO, here again no significant developmental trends have been shown by the subjects of Grade-IV. The subjects belonging to different grades have shown somewhat similar trend of repulsiveness, like those of LO, for the

members of MLO (Table-1 and Table-2). For example, the subjects belonging to Grade-I (12.18%) have shown greater repulsiveness for the members of MLO than those of Grade-II (8.62%, $Z = 6.26$, $p < 0.01$). Similarly, the subjects belonging to Grade-IV (6.23%) have also shown less repulsion for the members of MLO than those of Grade-III (9.88%, $Z = 2.50$, $p < 0.01$). However, the subjects belonging to Grade-II (8.62%) and Grade-III (9.88%) have shown statistically identical repulsion for the members of MLO may be because of any reason.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The development of mass and media communication have created a large amount of requirements and expectation among people. This high level of requirements and expectations may be rejected. The amount of rejection of these expectations may decide the amount of repulsiveness. This may be the main reason for worldwide tension, which requires to be investigated. Deviating from the general trends of study for studying attractiveness, attempts have been made to study the impact of occupational status as the determinants of repulsiveness in real-life situation. It is observed that the subjects have shown greater repulsion for the members of their own occupational status or in-group may be because of rejection of their high level of expectations from them. Griffin and Bartholomew (1994) have observed that rejection of expectation level among close relationship tend to cause anxiety. In Indian social system we are closely associated with each other having high level of expectations from each other. In a joint family all the members have moral and social right in the earning of others. On these principles it is assumed that one has high level of expectation from their close associates or in-group. The amount of gape in between

the level of expectation and its fulfillment may be the cause of the amount of repulsion. In close association once repulsion starts, it increases day by day due to emotional imbalance, however, the relation is continuing because of the concept of comparison level for alternatives (Thibaut & Kelley, 1959) of social exchange theory. In our traditional system arranged marriage is properly maintained in spite of day-t-day problems in between husband and wife in lack of proper alternative. The result is consistent with the reporting of Berscheid and Walster (1978) in the area of family quarrel, which is based only on case studies. The present finding is based on scientific procedure and consistent with previous study (Singh, 2002) in the area of occupational status, fully supporting first hypothesis.

In showing their repulsiveness for the members of out-group, the subjects have shown greater repulsion for the members of PO than others may be because their low educational and cultural background. The members of PO are mostly engaged in agriculture and business. They are in majority, in high dominance and in privileged position having high socio-economic status in the locality. They may express roughness or bad behaviour. They may not be acting in accordance with the expectation level of the subjects. The subjects have shown greater repulsion for them may be because of their roughness beyond expectation level. Excluding the responses for PO or among the group of service men, the subjects have shown greater repulsion for the members of HO and least for the members of LO, may be because of status consciousness. The members of HO and LO have high and low status value, respectively. The level of expectation from them may be high and low in accordance with their status. Greater amount of repulsiveness shown for the members of high status may be because of higher amount of rejection of expectation

level from them. On the other hand, the subjects have shown least repulsion for the members of low status may be because of their low status, treating them as useless and avoiding them at the point of expectation level. Here assumption may be made that the subjects are influenced by the status of their own and of the responded members. The result is consistent with the previous finding in the area of attractiveness (Knippenberg et al., 1990, Singh, 2001) and of repulsiveness (Singh, 2002).

Interaction either attractive or repulsive are acquired one. It develops through social interaction in course of their developmental stages. The subjects have shown their amount of repulsiveness in accordance with their developmental stages. The expectation level of the subjects may be increasing in accordance with their development. It may be rejected at the same proportion by their associates, due to which they have shown their amount of repulsion in accordance with their developmental stages. This tendency of the subjects has clearly been shown in their responses for in-group. The immature group has shown less in-group polarization for repulsiveness than those of matured one. They express repulsiveness for them with the increasing rate, in accordance with their developmental stages, may be owing to rejection of expectation level at the same amount by them. The gap in between the level of expectation and its fulfillment may be increasing with the increase of developmental stages, which cause their increasing rate of repulsiveness for their in-group.

The subjects belonging to different developmental stages have shown differentiation in showing their repulsiveness for the members of PO, MLO, and LO. They have shown increasing rate of repulsiveness for the out-group of PO, may be because of recognizing their rough behaviour and realizing about their low educational and

cultural background. The subjects may be frustrated from expectation level formed for them in accordance with their developmental stages. However, they have shown less repulsiveness for the out-group members of MLO and LO in accordance with their developmental stages, may be because of reducing bias for them, accordingly. It is assumed that guardians and their associates of the children may impose wrong concept for the members of low status. This concept of the subjects may be cleared or minimized in accordance with their development in course of interactions.

It can be concluded that developmental trend has clearly been shown in negative interactions, which have greatly been determined on the basis of the amount of association and rejection of expectation level of the subjects by their associates. Here assumption may be made that both attractiveness and repulsiveness are determined on the basis of the amount of association among the members.

The impact of developmental stages has mostly been studied only on attractive items. In the present study it is observed that the finding obtained on attractiveness is consistent (Johnson, 1989; Kasturi & Jeasuri, 1982). With repulsiveness it is observed that subjects irrespective of grades have shown similar trend of responses in showing repulsiveness for in-group polarization and status consciousness for out-groups, however, their developmental trends have clearly been shown. Immature group have a tendency to express less on items of repulsiveness. It is the society who teaches them for repulsiveness in course of their developmental process. It can be minimized with the minimization of expectation level and social modification.

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