

## **A study on Parent-Adolescent's relationship on the basis of gender differences**

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### **Abstract**

Parent-Child relationship implies a unique bond between every child and their parent. This bond nurtures the psychological, emotional and social development of the child. The major aim of this paper is to study about the relationship of adolescents with their parents, as parent-child relationship influences adolescents most in building their overall personality. Descriptive method was used in this study. For the sample of this study 120 adolescents were randomly selected from three higher secondary schools (50% boys and 50% girls) of Darrang district of Assam. For collection of data, an adapted version of Parent-Child Relationship scale by Nalini Rao (2001) was used. The study revealed that girls get more love, affection, protection and reward from their father than boys get. In mother-child relationship, boys get more reward from mothers than girls. This study also studied boy's perception towards their parents and it showed mothers as more protective and gives reward in comparison to their fathers. Girl's relationship with parents revealed that mothers are more protective towards them than fathers are.

### **Introduction:**

Adolescence is a stage of growth and development between childhood and adulthood in human life cycle. Persons attending this stage are termed as adolescents. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines adolescents as persons between the age group of 10-19 years. It is a transitional period of human life which is characterized by various physiological, psychological, and emotional changes. American psychologist G. Stanley Hall describes adolescence as the 'period of storm and stress' in which adolescents are in conflict with their parents, elders and with various social norms and customs. They find it difficult to adjust with their changing role expected by parents and society. All these may create a negative impact upon them and they may become anxious, angry and moody. So it is the prime duty of parents and society to understand their needs and desire to lead them in a proper way.

As adolescents spend most of their time with their parents and family, their behavior is guided by their parents also. Therefore, parenting style do influence on adolescent's psychological, emotional and social development. Parenting styles are the ways and strategies parents used in child rearing; it includes parental love and affection, responsibilities, parental attention, parental expectation, understand their child, rules set for them etc. All these ways and strategies should be changed according to the developmental stages of children. It is not same to deal with a child or an adolescent. To deal with adolescent is the most challenging job for every parent as various psychological, physiological and emotional changes occurs during this period. That's why it can be said that for upbringing a child, quality of parenting is most essential than quantity of time spent with them.

Baumrind (1996) identified four parenting styles: Authoritarian or disciplinarian, Permissive or Indulgent, Uninvolved, and Authoritative. Authoritarian parents use strict discipline, strict rule-regulations and less flexibility. Even they give punishment to their child. Permissive parents are more like friends than parents. These parents let their children do what they want; they use flexibility in rules and regulations. Uninvolved parents give them lot of freedom and stay away from their way. Authoritative parents set high and clear expectations. This style helps child to be self-disciplined.

Domitrovich C. E. and Bierman K. L. (2001) claims that supportive parenting practices has positive influence on child's prosocial behavior and it helps in lowering the child aggression. Sangwan (2002) revealed that though boys and girls perceived their parents positively, but boys get more concentration and protection whereas girls get more parental acceptance. Higgins, Jennings and Mahoney (2009) found that if parental attachment decreases, probability of committing delinquent acts increases. Strohschein and Matthew (2015) described that parental support and encouragement helps adolescents not to rebel against their parents.

**Objectives:**

1. To study gender wise variations in different dimensions of father-child relationship of adolescent boys and girls.
2. To study gender wise variations in different dimensions of mother-child relationship of adolescent boys and girls.
3. To study adolescent boy's relationship with father and mother in different dimensions.
4. To study adolescent girl's relationship with father and mother in different dimensions.

**Hypotheses:**

H<sub>01</sub> :- There exists no significant difference in father-child relationship of adolescent boys and girls.

H<sub>02</sub> :- There exists no significant difference in mother-child relationship of adolescent boys and girls.

H<sub>03</sub> :- There exists no significant difference in boy's relationship with father and mother.

H<sub>04</sub> :- There exists no significant difference in girl's relationship with father and mother.

**Sample and Sampling Technique:**

Sample for the present study is consisting of 120 adolescent students from 3 higher secondary schools of Darrang district of Assam. The age range of the students are 15-18 years. Sample students are equally divided into two groups- boys and girls.

At first the investigator took permission from principal of each school to conduct the study on higher secondary second year students. After getting permission the researcher prepared a list

of total students to select sample students. Then the sample was selected using simple random sampling techniques.

### **Tool:**

An adapted version of “Parent-Child Relationship scale (2001) by Nalini Rao” was used to collect relevant information.

For the administration of the tools, the investigator personally visited one higher secondary school and took permission from the principal to conduct two tests on 30 students of HS final year. After conducting the tests for the first time, an interval of 15 days was made to conduct the same test for the second time on the same group of students.

### **Scoring Procedure:**

The scale is scored separately for both father and mother as per marking preferences from 3 for “Always”, 2 for “Sometimes” and 1 for “Rarely”.

### **Reliability and Validity:**

To determine the reliability of the tests, **test-retest reliability method** was used by the investigator. Pearson’s co-efficient of correlation method was applied for finding out correlation between the two sets of scores. The relationships has been found .84

The Validity of the tool appeared to be high, for determining the validity of the tool the investigator has consulted with some teachers, research guide and experts.

### **Statistical Techniques used:**

The collected data has been analyzed through Mean, SD and t-test.

**Method:** Descriptive survey method was used for the study.

### **Discussion and Analysis:**

**Table 1:** Data showing gender wise variation of father-child relationship scores of the adolescent boys and girls

Dimensions	Gender	N	Mean	SD	t	df	Level of Significance
Protecting	Boys	60	22.15	3.93			Not Significant

	Girls	60	23.05	3.45	.612	118	
Reward	Boys	60	20.45	3.69	1.3709	118	Not Significant
	Girls	60	21.3	3.06			
Rejecting	Boys	60	17.15	4.08	.5479	118	Not Significant
	Girls	60	17.55	3.93			
Punishment	Boys	60	17.85	3.87	1.3768	118	Not Significant
	Girls	60	16.9	3.6			

Table 1 shows the gender wise variations in different dimensions of father-child relationship scores of adolescent boys and girls. Though there are no statistically proven significant difference between views of boys and girls, but, in protecting and reward dimension, girls shows a little more love, affection, protection and reward from their father than boys. In rejecting and punishment dimensions also, there are no significant differences between boys and girls. That means, father’s rejection and punishment toward them are not based on gender. Therefore, the null hypothesis i.e. “There exists no significant difference in father-child relationship of adolescent boys and girls” can be accepted for all dimensions.

**Table 2:** Data showing gender wise variation of mother-child relationship scores of the adolescent boys and girls

Dimensions	Gender	N	Mean	SD	t	df	Level of Significance
Protecting	Boys	60	24.65	3.72	1.562	118	Not Significant
	Girls	60	24.75	3.33			
Reward	Boys	60	23.6	4.11	2.6056	118	Significant at 0.05 level
	Girls	60	21.75	3.6			
Rejecting	Boys	60	17.55	4.59	.5	118	Not Significant
	Girls	60	17.95	4.17			
Punishment	Boys	60	18.5	3.66	1.2698	118	Not Significant
	Girls	60	17.7	3.42			

Table No 2 depicts gender wise variations of mother-child relationship scores of the adolescent boys and girls. In protecting, rejecting and punishment dimension; there is no significant difference in mother-child relationship between boys and girls. In reward

dimension, boys and girls show difference in mother-child relationship. Boys get more reward from mother than girls. Therefore, the null hypothesis i.e. “There exists no significant difference in mother-child relationship of adolescent boys and girls” can be accepted in protecting, rejecting and punishment dimension, but rejected in reward dimension.

**Table 3:** Data showing boy’s relationship with his father and mother across various dimensions

Dimensions	N	Father		Mother		t	df	Level of Significance
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
Protecting	60	22.15	3.93	24.65	3.72	3.5714	118	Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 level
Reward	60	20.45	3.69	23.6	4.11	4.4366	118	Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 level
Rejecting	60	17.15	4.08	17.55	4.59	.5063	118	Not Significant
Punishment	60	17.85	3.87	18.5	3.66	.9420	118	Not Significant

Table No 3 depicts boy’s relationship with his father and mother. In protecting and reward dimensions, boys show significant difference in their relationship with father and mother. They reveal that mothers are more protective towards them and give them symbolic or object reward in different times in comparison to their fathers. In rejecting and punishment dimensions, they show no significant difference in their relationship with father and mother. Therefore, null hypothesis i.e. “There exists no significant difference in boy’s relationship with father and mother” can be accepted in rejecting and punishment dimension, but rejected in protecting and reward dimension.

**Table 4:** Data showing girl’s relationship with her father and mother across various dimensions

Dimensions	N	Father		Mother		t	df	Level of Significance
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
Protecting	60	23.05	3.45	24.75	3.33	2.7419	118	Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 level
Reward	60	21.3	3.06	21.75	3.6	.7258	118	Not Significant
Rejecting	60	17.55	3.93	17.95	4.17	.5405	118	Not Significant

Punishment	60	16.9	3.6	17.7	3.42	1.25	118	Not Significant
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Table no 4 depicts girl's relationship with father and mother. Protecting dimension shows differences in father-daughter and mother-daughter relationships. The mean scores shows that mothers are more protecting towards their daughters than fathers. In reward, rejecting and punishment dimension, they reveal no significant differences between mothers and fathers. Therefore, null hypothesis i.e. "There exists no significant difference in girl's relationship with father and mother" can be accepted in reward, rejecting and punishment dimensions, but rejected in protecting dimension.

### **Conclusion:**

Parental interaction or parent-child relationship has a great influence in adolescent's personality development. Positive parental interaction helps adolescent to become emotionally strong and stable and to feel secure. On the other hand, negative parent-child relationship can lead them to delinquent act or other antisocial activities. This study reveals that boys and girls perception towards their fathers in all dimensions, i.e. protecting, reward, rejecting and punishment, are almost same. In mother-child relationship, boys get more reward from mothers than girls. And in case of protecting, rejecting and punishment, boys and girls show no difference. This study also reveals boys perception towards their parents and it shows mothers as more protective and gives reward in comparison to their fathers. Girl's relationship with parents reveals that mothers are more protective towards them than fathers. But in reward, rejecting and punishment dimension mothers and fathers shows no difference in girls.

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