

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF URBAN AND RURAL ADOLESCENTS WITH REFERENCE TO THEIR SELF IMAGE

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ABSTRACT

Adolescence is a time of major physical, cognitive and psychosocial growth which comprises nearly half the growing period of life after birth. It may usually be considered as a time span during which boys and girls grow into men and women and come to think and to feel not as children but as adults. Most of the adolescents, especially in the rapidly moving urban metropolitan and cosmopolitan societies, live in a success driven culture. The adolescents live among anxious grown ups. this further leaves room for parent-child conflict which may assume gigantic proportions if not headed to in time because all too many parents are disappointed in their own careers.

KEYWORDS: Urban and Rural, Adolescents, Self Image, Societies

The specific biologic events of the adolescents years is puberty and the maturing of the se organs and the development of secondary sexual characteristics. It is the time when an individual attains his mture size and stature. It I a time of physical development and growth. Profound and rapid changes take place in the individual and is marked by a series of critical physiological changes which bring the individual closer to physical and biological maturity. Females are early matures than males. Stuart¹ has summarized the general trend of differences between those who mature very early sad those who mature very late.

Adolescent development follows a specific human pattern, rigid in its sequence gut it varies considerably from one individual to another. This phase is accompanied by an increasing awareness of ‘Self’ and a development or ‘Self ideals’, and the acceptance of self within the framework of those ideals. it I a time of conflict between youthful idealism and reality. The adolescent is an individual who desires to be venturesome, Seeks new experiences and saw interpersonal relationships in life and often seeks difficulties deliberately in order to overcome them.

It is the only period of life after infancy in which the growth rate normally increases. Beginning around ten years in girls and 12 years in boys it’s end is not clearly chalked out and varies with physical, emotional, social and cultural make up which characterize the adult.

On the basis of proceeding discussion, it may be pointed out that adolescence is the crucial period during which the person establishes his self-identity and his previously established values laid down during the period of early socialization are challenged, scrutinized and finally accepted in the same form or in modified form. This is the period during which the person has to make choices or decision related to several issues such as carrier, partner, religion, sex, fashion and recreation. They are a supposed to develop the capacity to make decisions in these areas.

In adolescence, self is an other important aspect. Though development of self begins at birth and continues through out life but during adolescence, the awareness of one’s identity related to social status, physical and mental potentials and sex role become heightened. The cause might be physiological change and role ambiguity. Self-image may have significant impact upon the interaction with other people or groups. Rosenberg has indicated that behavior in a relationship is affected not only by the responses of the other but also by the way the person perceives himself.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Research methodology refers to framework designed for conducting the research in the scientific and orderly manner. it acts as a guideline to proceed with the research work in a hassle free manner.

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In any scientific investigation methodology plays an important role because the reliability and validity of the obtained results are contingent upon the objectives, accurate and scientific methodology. The attempts are made to study the interrelation and interactions. Since the present investigation deals with three factors age, Sex and locality, the experimental design of the present research work is a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ factorial design. In the present investigation following questionnaires have been used.

1. Indian adaptation of offer's Self-image Questionnaire (SIQ) by Agrawal and Mishra (1978).
2. Personal data schedule constructed by the investigator.

The following hypotheses are formulated.

1. Self-image of boys is better than girl.
2. Self-image of late Adolescent is better than that of early Adolescent.
3. Self- image is Urban-group is better than rural group.

Objectives of the Study

The major objectives of the present investigation will be as follows:

1. To Study the affect of age, sex and locality on the level of conformity to peer group.
2. To study the effect of age sex and locality on the development of self-image of adolescence.
3. To study the relationship between self-image and conformity.

Indian Adaptation of Offer's Self-image Questionnaire (SIQ) by Agrawal and Mishra

Extremely true	Sufficiently true	True	True	Sufficiently false	Extremely false
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For positively worded items subject is given weighted scores from 1 to 6 for categories from extremely true to extremely false. The scoring of the negatively

The SIQ was administered to a sample of 70 students along with the NI Scale (Agrawal & Purnima, 1980) to ascertain the agreement of SI Scores and NT Scores which could be taken as a measure of discriminate validity. The test scores correlated significantly ($r = -0.583$) To interpret the score on the inventory for various traits (sub-scales) T scores and Percentile norms were worked out.

The standardized scores separately presented for boys and girls in (Agrawal and Mishra, 1980). The offer Self-Image Questionnaire (OSIQ) was administered to over 3000 teenagers from a variety of geographic locations. Offer (1969) employed various procedures to improve and evaluate the scales of the Self-Image Questionnaire. He computed item-total and item-item correlation for the items of each scale, for each sample.

There is a high degree of consistency across samples for any item-total correlations and the correlations indicated a high homogeneity of the scales. Offer (1967) also computed intra-class correlation for each scale. The results were quite consistent with those for the item-total analysis, again supporting the internal consistency of the various scales of the Questionnaire. He also analysed each scale for its ability to discriminate among the various samples.

Scoring

Every item of the scale is presented to the respondent for endorsement on a six point rating format. These rating categories are:

worded items is just reverse of positive worded items. Each sub-scale consists of different number of positive and negative items which have been presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of Items Contained in Each Sub-Scale and Their Negative-Positive Distribution

Sl. No.	Sub-Scales	Positive	Negative	Total
1	Impulse Control	5	5	10
2	Emotional tone	4	6	10
3	Body and self-image	5	5	10
4	Social relationships	5	5	10
5	Morals	5	5	10

6	Sexual attitudes	5	5	10
7	Family relationships	8	12	20
8	Mastery of external world	5	5	10
9	Vocational-educational goals	5	5	10
10	Psychopathology	7	8	15
11	Superior adjustment	8	7	15
Total		62	68	130

The low score on self-image indicates better self-esteem.

Sample

Sample for item analysis consisted of 600 adolescent boys and girls, age ranging from 14 to 18 years from different urban schools and colleges of Varanasi District, Uttar Pradesh, India.

In the present investigation, the size of sample that has been taken is 600 adolescents. The research design is a

2×2×2 factorial design with 2 subgroups in each strata, i.e., age, sex and locality. The sample was selected via stratified random sampling, keeping the number of subjects in each of the comparable groups above the statistically required limit of 30. The final obtained distribution has been given in Table 2.

Table 2: Sample Distribution

	Subgroups	Boys		Girls		Total
		N	Code name	N	Code name	
Urban	Early adolescents (14-16yrs)	75	UEAB	75	UEAB	150
	Late adolescents (17-18yrs)	75	ULAB	75	ULAB	150
Urban	Early adolescents (14-16yrs)	75	RLAB	75	REAG	150
	Late adolescents (17-18yrs)	75	RLAB	75	RLAG	150
Total		300		300		600

This age-wise classification includes two categories:

STUDY AREA

Varanasi has been selected as the place for the present research work because in this district families belonging to different socio-economic group are residential. Moreover people belonging to all possible caste and religions resided in this district. The families live in a

particular situation, which is common to all; hence, the impact of the surrounding on the respondent is visible. Only due to various occupation, religion, caste and income, the effect perceived of adolescents could be meaningfully observed. Age group of the adolescents was between the age of 14 to 17years. Only those families were selected in which adolescent of this age-group were available.

Table 3: Early and late sub-Groups Compared for Homogeneity on Sub-Scales of self-Image scores

Sub-Groups Compared	SCSLE										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
UEAB vs ULAB	1.36	0.39	0.36	0.22	0.20	0.49	0.62	1.42	0.57	2.82	1.58
UEAG vs ULAG	2.73	0.92	0.61	0.44	2.47	0.0	0.86	0.0	0.36	10.2	0.12
REAB vs RLAB	0.0	1.51	0.22	1.42	0.21	0.88	1.81	0.22	2.47	0.81	1.97
REAG vs RLAG	1.74	0.55	0.95	1.49	0.83	2.13	1.17	0.00	4.82	0.24	1.59

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The most crucial task in any research investigation is to organize and summarize the observation and findings in such a manner that they yield a viable answer to the objective of the study. This necessitates systematization of the quantitative data in tabular and graphical forms followed by generalized interpretations in qualitative terms. In this chapter an attempt has been made to accomplish this task by discussing each hypothesis framed for the investigation at the beginning of this research project.

Analysis of Self-Image on Different Sub-Scales

Summary of analysis of variance for SI scores on different sub-scales are presented in. It has been found that the effect of age variable is significant for morals, family relations, vocational planning and adjustment. The effect of sex variable is significant for impulse control, emotional tone and family relations. The effect of locality factor is significant for all the areas except sexual attitudes.

The interaction effects $S \times A$, $L \times A$ and $S \times L \times A$ are significant for impulse control. The interaction effect $S \times L$ is significant for family relations, external mastery, vocational and educational goal, psychopathology and superior adjustment.

An inspection of indicates that in urban boys, early adolescent group show more psychological disturbance than late adolescent group. It has also been observed that in the rural group, older adolescents have more realistic plans about their career than the younger group of adolescent. It may be pointed out that younger adolescents are confused about their future plans but with increasing age their decision making capacity is enhanced. They develop the capacity to make important decisions related to future activities. Older girls possess significantly higher ego strength than younger girls in urban group.

Boys and girls of urban population differ significantly on scale 7 i.e., family relations which indicates that girls are having better relations with family member than boys. Agrawal (1978) also obtained similar results.

Summary

Result also indicates that in rural group only girls and in urban group only boys have shown a marked decrease in agreement with parents with growing age. The differences are not significant for other comparisons. Sex-

wise differences on Pa scores indicate that the mean Pa scores of boys are higher than those of girls but the differences are significant only for rural late adolescents. The results are in direct contradiction to hypothesis 1 which states, 'Girls show more agreement with parents than boys.' With regard to peer conformity career emerges as an important issue for growing urban boys who have to decide their career. The issue is not very important for rural and urban girls who rarely take up jobs. On religion, urban early adolescents are less conforming to peers than urban late adolescents girls. Except rural boys, both urban and rural groups have shown greater adherence to peers on recreation with growing age.

On the issue of sex, the rural group shows more agreement with peers than the urban group. On the issues of choice of partner and religion, rural girls seek the advice of peers more than urban girls. Result indicates that urban boys and girls have shown greater Adherence to peers with increasing age. No such trend is observed in the rural group. Boys and girls do not differ significantly on self-image scores. F-ratio for sex variable is also not significant. Hence, hypothesis 1 which states, 'self-image of boys is better and girls' is not accepted. However, significant differences emerged on Scale 7 which shows that girls have shown better relationship with parents than boys. The self-image of urban adolescent is significantly higher than the self-image of rural adolescents. It seems that locality factor has a significant effect on the development of self-image. Perhaps, urban setting provides favourable conditions for the growth of self-image. Hypotheses 1,2, 3, deal with self-image. On the adolescents do not differ significantly on self-image scores. F-ratio for age variable is also not significant. Hence, hypothesis 2 is not supported by the results. When age-wise comparison is done on sub-scales, it has been found that older adolescents have better moral strength and are having reasonable vocational plans than the younger adolescents. In general, it is observed that the urban adolescents have shown better emotional control, are efficient in external mastery, are less psychologically disturbed and finally better adjusted than the rural group. They are having more realistic vocational and educational plans than rural adolescents. Overall, it may be concluded that the self-image of urban group is better than rural adolescents.

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