



A Study on the Influence of Family Environment on Secondary School Students

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ABSTRACT

During the education of the child, the family plays the very important role. A family is the first agency through which a child gets education for sociability. The family is a primary social group; it attains the relationship among individuals in a straight forward and direct way. It helps to promote academic achievement, discover new ways to promote the development of various social skills. Hence, the family environment has full potential to act as a vehicle for students in order to improve self-esteem, social skills, and ultimately fit them into their school environment. It helps to improve social adjustment among students. So, this paper highlights importance of family environment among secondary school students in teaching learning environment.

Introduction

The word Family is derived from the Roman word 'famulus' which mean a 'servant'. Family is an alliance of parent and off spring's whose key function is the mingling of the child in the society and contentment of the members. Nevertheless, to know the impact of the family members on the child, it is mandatory to comprehend family and its various functions. Family means: (i) The body of persons who live in one house or under one head, including parents, children, servants etc. (ii) The ground consisting of parents and their children, whether living together or not. (iii) A person's children reared collectively. (iv) Those descended or claimed descent from a common ancestry. It is the family that gives first experience to a child to understand relationships usually occurs within a family. Family is a small group through which most of the children come in contact with society and come to know about culture and values.

The world family environment means an interpersonal relationship between the parents and students. According bloom (1989) the climate of the family may be regarded as providing a network of forces and factors which surround engulf and play on the individual.

Family is miniature of society and it is protected by the society and family is small unit of the society as well as individual is small unit of the Family. Society and family both are two faces of same coin. Every individual has achievement in his life in their childhood days they achieve the academic. Curriculum achievement plays most significant and vital role for their future. Family climate includes social and physical activities of child his family members and helps in determining cognitive, social and intellectual development of the children.

Family is the oldest and the most important of all the institutions that man has devised one can regulate and integrate his behavior as to strive or satisfy his basic needs. Family indicates the individuals and the members of the group. The family provides care and support to the child; child care may be equally shared by the parents. Though it is the total environment of a family that influences the child development, it is mainly believed by many that parents constitute a major part of family environment. To make the meaning of family more clearly we are giving some important definitions given by some well-known person as under:-

1. Maclver and Charles: - "The family is a group defined by a sex relationship sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for the procreation and upbringing of children".
2. Burgess and Locke:- "The family is a group of persons united by ties of marriage, blood or adoption; constituting a single household, interacting and intercommunicating with each other in their respective social role of husband and wife, mother and father, brother and sister; creating a common culture".

3. Conklin: - "The family is a socially defined set of relationships between at least two people who are related by birth, marriage or adoption".

4. Ballard's view: - "Family is the original social institution from which all other institutions developed".

Family Climate exerts a deep and persistent influence on the life of the individual for it is the family in which he acquires the intimate experience. Each member in a family is a developing individual and the relationship between each member is developed gradually over passage of time. Family is truly a system in which change in family membership or relationship are bound to affect the dynamics of the whole family. The need to understand the unique relationship between parent and their children is a matter of concern in today's complex world. The need for the effective parenting is felt with the changing nature of family itself. Both mother and father has remained as a source of contribution in the development of their children (Latha, 2005).

Family in which a child is brought up plays a significant role in his life. Various studies conducted in this regard reveal that that most of the children who have proved successful, great achievers and well-adjusted in the society come from the families where sustaining wholesome relationships exist. Therefore, it is the family, which establishes the pattern for child's attitude towards people and society, aids intellectual growth in the child and supports his aspirations and achievements. A significant positive relationship found out between the variables of academic achievement and family scores, which indicated that high family climate groups achieved greater success than middle and low family climate groups (Coleman, 1974).

It is in the family, where the foundation of a healthy or unhealthy personality is laid down. It is the family which satisfies most of the basic human needs physical, psychological and social. A child needs to have a sense of security not only physical but also emotional. He needs to be able to take for granted complete affection from all members of the family but also be able to express his love in various ways. Only then a sense of being wanted develops. Happy and harmonious relationship between children and parents and other members of the family contribute to the development of sense of security. Through this, child develops a sense of belongingness. He needs to have a place in the family structure and be recognized as an individual and must be respected. Child's needs and feelings should neither be taken for granted or ignored.

During the education of the child the family plays the most important role. A family is the first agency through which a child gets education for sociability. The family is a primary social group; it attains the relationship among individuals in a straight forward and direct way.

Importance of Family:

- Physical Development: - Family has the responsibility of providing nutrition, food, proper clothing, rests, sleep, play, physical exercises, medical aid etc.
- Intellectual Development: - If there is rich intellectual environment in the family, mental development, language development, development of healthy perspective of child is enhanced. If family atmosphere is disruptive then intellectual development of the child will be obstructed.
- Character Development: - Family lays the foundation of one's character. Ethical virtues like sincerity, sympathy, love, honest, truthfulness, industriousness, sublimation of instincts are developed in the family, If the family environment is disruptive than the child may develop weaker character.
- Emotional Development: - Family is the basis of emotional development of the child. Parents should give full affection to children so that sense of emotional security may be developed in them. Parents should live amicably in the home. They should have control over their emotions because emotions are caught and not taught.
- Social Development: - Family is said to be the cradle of all social virtues. The child is born in a family and social development takes place first of all in the family. Co-operation, good will, mutual understanding, sense of subordination of self to larger interests of the society, sense of belonging etc. are some of the cardinal social virtues which have their beginning in the home.
- Cultural Development: - Family plays an important role in transmitting the cultural heritage of the society to the child. It makes the child familiar with customs, conventions, traditions, values and norms of the society. Thus the function of family is to maintain the continuity of social life by handing down the culture of the society to the child.
- Development of Personality: - We find that the home or the family serves as a nursery where the personality of an individual fully develops and blossoms. By looking after the physical, intellectual moral, social and cultural development of the child, the family exercises great educative influence on the child, especially during the most impressionable period of his life.

Thus, each member of the family continues to develop throughout the life and the relationship between each member also keeps on developing with the time. Education is a comprehensive and complex process aiming at bringing about not only change in knowledge and skill but also change in attitudes, behaviour, values, needs and several other variables which are psychological and behavioral in nature. further, while attempting to bring about desired

changes in the above, education also aims at an integration of these to help the individual to develop as a totality. Education is a comprehensive and complex process aiming at bringing about not only change in knowledge and skill but also change in attitudes, behaviour, values, needs and several other variables which are psychological and behavioral in nature. Further, while attempting to bring about desired changes in the above, education also aims at an integration of these to help the individual to develop as a totality.

The family is traditionally seen as the basic foundation of society. Generally, family can be seen as a group of people who have biological, emotional or legal ties to each other. In different cultures the term “family” may mean different things and a wide variation of families, usually people of two generations and two genders are involved (Rani,1998). The concept of family has changed from the larger extended to smaller units, i.e. the nuclear family or intact family, and nowadays to even smaller single parent family. The variety of form a family may take includes nuclear family or intact parent family, single-parent family, extended family or childless Family. Among these forms of family, the intact parent’s family and single-parents’ families are more commonly found.

Family environment plays very important role in personality development and adjustment of children. If there is feeling of mutual understanding in the family, it contributes significantly in improvement of educational achievement, forward thinking, proper adjustment and other required quality. On the other hand, in a disintegrated and quarrelsome family, negative characteristics like frustration, depression, anxiety, and tension grow in personality of the children and in this way, it affects adjustment of the children. The adjustment quality of children gives them power to fight against odd things at various fronts of their life. Family provides most of the early environmental influence upon the personality which remains throughout the life.

Family environment play a significant and very crucial role in the development as well as educational and vocational attainment(Dasgupta & Sanyal, 2008).

Family serves as an enriching ground for early socialization and personality development, the healthy outcomes of which are the provision of unconditional love and acceptance, understanding, behavioral management and guidance, academic encouragement and assistance.

Family being the first and major agency of socialization has great influence and bearing on the development of the child. It has been shown by the various studies that most of the children who are successful /great achievers and well-adjusted come from the families where sustaining wholesome relationship exist. So, it is the home which sets the pattern for the Child’s attitude toward the people and society, aids intellectual growth in the Child’s and supports his aspirations and achievements(Sharma & Khatoon, 2011).

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

To study the impact of family environment among secondary school students.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

- 1) There is no significant difference in family environment among secondary school students, in relation to gender i.e. boys and girls.
- 2) There is no significant difference in family environment among secondary school students, in relation to location i.e. urban and rural.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The present study is confined to Amritsar district.
2. The study will be confined to variable i.e. family environment.

SELECTION OF SAMPLE

For the investigation, 100 students of class 10th will be randomly taken.

TOOLS USED FOR DATA COLLECTION

Family Climate Scale (FCS) by Dr. Beena Shah [2006]

HYPOTHESIS No.1

First hypothesis was framed to examine the significant difference between the family environment of secondary school students i.e boys and girls. To test this hypothesis, t- test was applied to determine the significant difference between the family environment of boys and girls. The result of this analysis is being reported in table1.

Table1: Showing Means, Standard Deviation, Standard error and t-value of boys and girls on Family Environment

Groups	N	Mean	SD	SE _D	t-ratio	Level of Significance
Girls	50	60	5.7	.803	1.35	Not Significant
Boys	50	59	5.6			

Therefore, hypothesis is stated as “There is no significance in family environment among secondary school students, in relation to gender i.e boys and girls” is not rejected.

HYPOTHESIS No.2

Second Hypothesis was framed to examine the significant difference between the family environment of secondary school students of urban and rural areas.

To test this hypothesis t-test was applied to determine the significant difference between the family environment of secondary school students of urban and rural areas. The result of this analysis is being reported in table 2.

Table 2: Showing Mean Standard Deviation, Standard error and t-value of adolescents of urban and rural areas on Family environment

Groups	N	Mean	SD	SE	t-value	Level of significance
Urban	50	70	5.7	0.80	2.242	Significant at 0.05 level
Rural	50	69	5.5			

Therefore, hypothesis stating that “There is no significant difference in family environment among secondary school students, in relation to location i.e of urban and rural” was therefore rejected.

CONCLUSION

Family is the socio-biological unit that exerts the greatest influence on the development perpetuation of the individual’s behaviour. Various researchers have identified the different characteristics of family (home environment or parental child rearing practices). The family of an individual is a continuous and universal social setting influencing the learning process of the child directly or indirectly. Therefore, there was no significant difference in family environment of boys and girls. Similarly, there was significant difference in family environment among urban and rural secondary school students.

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