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Effects of nuclear and joint families on parental style

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Abstract

Each family might be seen as a distinct community in its own regard. The family plays a key role in an individual's socialisation process. Relying on familial assistance is crucial for every kid from the moment of their birth. Numerous people encounter heightened levels of stress and instability throughout the time of adolescence due to its often perceived nature as a phase characterised by substantial transformations and obstacles. It is well acknowledged that parents have a significant role in shaping the personalities and outcomes of their children. Parenting approaches have a profound influence on development in all conceivable ways. The objective of this research was to investigate the differences and parallels in adolescent parenting among nuclear and mixed homes. The objective of the study was to conduct a comparative analysis of parenting methods among adolescents living in nuclear and combined homes. The Baumrind Parental Authoritative Questionnaire from 1991 was used to accomplish this objective. The measurement of six personality characteristics was conducted using the Parental Authority Questionnaire. These variables were authoritarianism (both parental and maternal), permissiveness (both parental and maternal), authoritativeness (both parents), and authoritarianism (both parents). A total of 120 adolescents took part in the study. The user has lived in both nuclear and joint households. The t-test was used to assess the data. The study's results indicate that there was no significant difference in the parenting practices of fathers between adolescent males from nuclear and combined households. Mothers in mixed-race households had a higher degree of authoritarianism compared to those in nuclear families. Authoritative parenting from infancy to adolescence is characterised by the principles of respecting the child's autonomy, demonstrating emotional awareness, and establishing concrete expectations.

Keywords: Teenage, growing, authoritative, personal development and infancy

Introduction

Adolescence presents its fair share of challenges. This era of rapid technological growth is filled with thrilling new opportunities and remarkable advancements. A common problem in modern society is the insufficient communication between parents and children. Parents often respond in different ways to their teenagers, perceiving them as individuals with conflicting emotions. The primary responsibility of a family is to bring forth, care for, and guide their children in the ways of the community, ensuring their future success as valuable members of society. It is perfectly natural for a newborn to have an innate desire to form strong connections with their family members. His family is the cornerstone of his life. The quality of the home environment greatly influences a child's development. The way an individual or a family treats their child can greatly influence the child's growth and achievements in life. According to Pant (2023)^[5], parents have a significant impact on their children's long-term emotional and physical well-being.

The term "joint family" refers to a family unit that consists of numerous generations of the same family and where they all have a common ancestor. One of the defining characteristics of a joint family is being able to accommodate numerous generations inside a single big dwelling. Having a mixed family is a long-standing custom in India, going back to the Vedic period and continuing to be common even throughout the reign of the kings. This practice has been there for a very long time. Within the context of a joint family, the peaceful cohabitation of persons from different generations is taken into consideration. The family unit is made up of a wide variety of people, including, but not limited to, grandparents, uncles, aunts, grandkids, and married couples, amongst other types of people. No one should feel obligated to shoulder the responsibility of taking care of the patriarch or the oldest member of the family by themselves. One of the most important factors in the maintenance of civilization is the family.

Throughout history, people from all over the globe have been enthralled by the Indian way of life, which is characterised by its extensive cultural legacy and strong familial ties. Living in joint families is more than just living together in the same house. It is a connection that is formed not just by blood but also by a mix of personal decisions and situational factors. A youngster that is brought up in a big family is more likely to be gregarious and kind, and they are also more likely to be generous with their assets. The concept of sharing is something that is ingrained in mixed families from a young age. The emphasis shifts from individualism to unity when one lives in a family that is shared by several people.

One of the most noteworthy characteristics of a nuclear family is the opulent living arrangements that are often enjoyed by both the parents and their children. Because of its tiny design. It is common practice to describe a nuclear family as a home environment in which the parents and their children who are under the age of 18 dwell together in a single residence. Depending on the context, this specific family structure may also be referred to as basic families, atomic families, cereal packet families, or conjugal families. It is important to note that this specific family structure is distinct from other types of families, such as nuclear families, large extended families, and families consisting of many parents. According to the standard definition of the term, a nuclear family often consists of a married couple who are free to choose the number of children they want to have among themselves. Following the conclusion of a marriage, it is common for children to establish their own homes and begin their own families. Within the framework of a nuclear family, it is typical for every member to take responsibility for their own requirements and to make decisions independently, without relying on the guidance or supervision of the person who is in charge of the household. The significant geographical distance that separates the parents and their married children is the primary factor that contributes to the lack of interdependence between the parents and their children.

Parental Style

The role of parenting significantly influences the emotional development of a kid. The key is in cultivating intimate and meaningful interactions with your young children, while providing them with essential organisation and direction. The act of parenting may provide a complex challenge, as parents are required to exhibit both responsiveness and demanding ness. Psychologists have found a variety of unconventional approaches individuals use in the context of parenting. According to Baumrind (1991) ^[7], there are three very significant approaches of child-rearing. It is important to give due consideration to these matters.

Authoritative

This parenting style is often seen as a moderate approach that bridges the gap between authoritarian parenting and permissive parenting methods. This particular parenting style exhibits resemblances to authoritative parenting in that it focuses on directing the child's conduct by using equitable and specific forms of encouragement. The dominant perspective posits that parents need to provide their children the freedom to enjoy their childhood experiences and regulate their behaviour in accordance with established norms and standards. The parents exhibit a considerable

degree of support towards their children and have elevated standards for their academic achievements.

Permissive

Instead of being strict, permissive parents act more like friends. Their rapid, welcoming, and emotive responses to their children's wants and needs reflect their belief in the inherent dignity of each person. Parents who are very lenient show their children a lot of love and hospitality while yet setting high standards for how they should act. A lot of people think that some parents are too lenient and uninvolved with their teenagers. Many people think this way because they think giving in to one's desires is the best way to show love. An appropriate amount of autonomy is granted to adolescents, enabling them to participate in autonomous exploration and discovery. This aids in their personal development and general welfare.

Authoritarian

The authoritarian parenting style of a parent, which is characterised by acts that are distant and authoritative, has the potential to have a substantial impact on the children of that parent. As a result of their authoritarian parenting style and their determination that their young children should obey them completely, the parents resort to harsh kinds of discipline. It is a widely held opinion that having face-to-face interactions with adolescents at home, as well as personally interacting with them, about standards and expectations, may result in unfavorable consequences. Parenting styles that are classified as authoritarian are marked by the existence of schedules that are constant and limited in flexibility.

Review of Literature

There is a substantial relationship between parental attitude, conduct, and self-concept in teenagers, according to research on psychosocial development (Abrheim, 2014) ^[1]. All of these findings have been proven. In spite of the fact that there is a widespread agreement on the influence that childhood care has on the feeling of identity that adolescents have, there are still a great deal of issues that remain unsolved concerning the elements that influence the ways in which adolescents provide care for their own families. According to a number of studies, joint families have a tendency to demonstrate higher stability when compared to homes managed by a single parent. However, the particular expressions of this stability change from one study to the next among the many investigations. The members of a family often live for a very long time, and there is a history of handing down duties from one generation to the next. In addition, there are distinct leadership positions within the family. According to the results of our study, a sizeable proportion of respondents emphasised the advantages of joint families, which include the maintenance of financial stability as well as emotional and mental steadiness. On the other hand, in a nuclear family, emotional support tends to decrease, tasks become more divided, financial stability may decrease (potentially due to having a sole provider), and psychological stress tends to rise (Bansal *et al.*, 2014) ^[3]. It is commonly recognised by experts that various parenting styles have the potential to impact the degree of harmony or conflict between parents and adolescents. Sorkhabi and Middaugh (2014) ^[6] did a research that reveals a correlation between teenagers who are raised by authoritative parents and their propensity to exhibit such actions. According to

Amy (2019) [2], children who are raised by parents who practise authoritarianism are more likely to comply with the directives of those in positions of power. That being said, despite the fact that they have presented a proposition, they will still be accountable for financing the costs. As a consequence of this, individuals may experience a decline in their sense of self-worth and a diminished propensity to express themselves personally. When it comes to resolving the symptoms of low self-esteem, it might be good to investigate different techniques. Parents who are effective have a significant influence on their children, both via the words they say and the acts they do. They invest a significant amount of time and energy into their children, which helps them develop close ties with them. In situations when they are surrounded by their young children, parents have a tendency to collaborate more efficiently. They are a source of self-assurance, and they have a deep faith in the enormous potential that their children possess. Bringing up children who are respectful and kind is their primary objective. Liu *et al.* (2022) [4] highlight the significance of treating children with patience and compassion, highlighting the value of this trait.

Objective

The purpose of this study is to examine how adolescents in nuclear and joint families see the parents' parenting styles.

Hypothesis

There is no significant difference in parental style between mothers and fathers in adolescents from joint and nuclear families.

Sample

A total of 160 students from various schools in the Ranchi area made up the study's cohort. Stratified proportional random sampling was the method used for selecting the

sample for this investigation. Eighty teens were from nuclear families and eighty were from mixed-family households out of 160 who took part in the research.

Tool

Parental Authority Questionnaire (PAQ): The Parental Authority Questionnaire developed by Buri (1991) [8], aims to assess the disciplinary methods used by parents as seen by their adult offspring. The Questionnaire consists of items that can be categorized into three distinct groups: permissive (P), authoritarian (A), and authoritative/flexible (F). The categories on the questionnaire are denoted by letters. The total score is obtained by summing up the subscale scores, which are calculated by adding up the scores of each individual item. The score range for each subscale is between 10 and 50. Each question is assessed using a 5-point Likert scale. The PAQ has strong construct validity and exhibits an internal consistency ranging from .74 to .87 for its subscales. The test-retest reliabilities of the PAQ vary from .77 to .92. A high score on the corresponding subscale reflects the parent's inclination towards that certain parenting style

Results

Table 1: Mean, SD and t of Maternal Parenting Style for Nuclear and Joint Family Adolescents

Family Type		N	Mean	SD	t-ratio	Significance Level
Authoritative	Joint	80	34.62	9.04	2.14	0.05
	Nuclear		32.48	7.57		
Permissive	Joint	80	32.68	9.72	1.79	Not Significant
	Nuclear		30.09	8.54		
Authoritarian	Joint	80	32.66	7.96	0.84	Not Significant
	Nuclear		31.82	6.63		

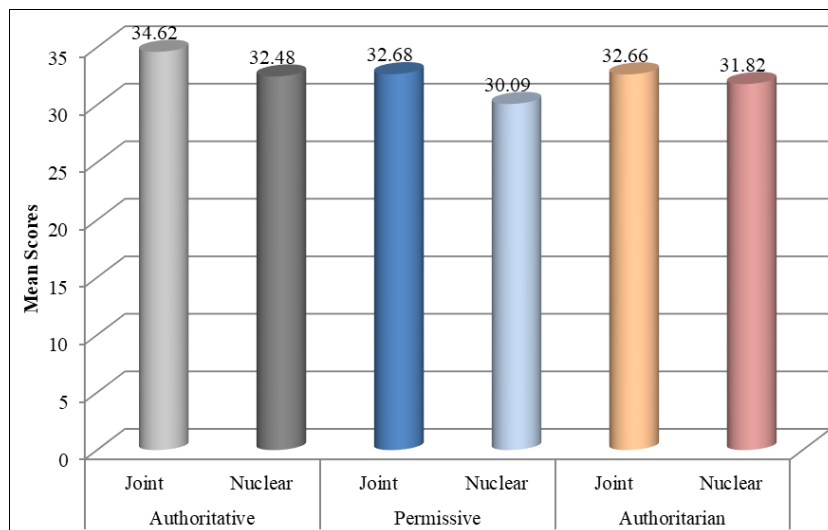


Fig 1: Mean Scores of Maternal Parenting Style among Nuclear and Joint Family Adolescents

Table 2: Mean, SD and t of Paternal Parenting Style for Nuclear and Joint Family Adolescents

Family Type		N	Mean	SD	t-ratio	Significance Level
Authoritative	Joint	80	34.94	9.62	1.66	Not Significant
	Nuclear		33.28	7.87		
Permissive	Joint	80	35.47	7.32	1.74	Not Significant
	Nuclear		33.73	5.88		
Authoritarian	Joint	80	34.19	7.07	1.52	Not Significant
	Nuclear		32.67	8.11		

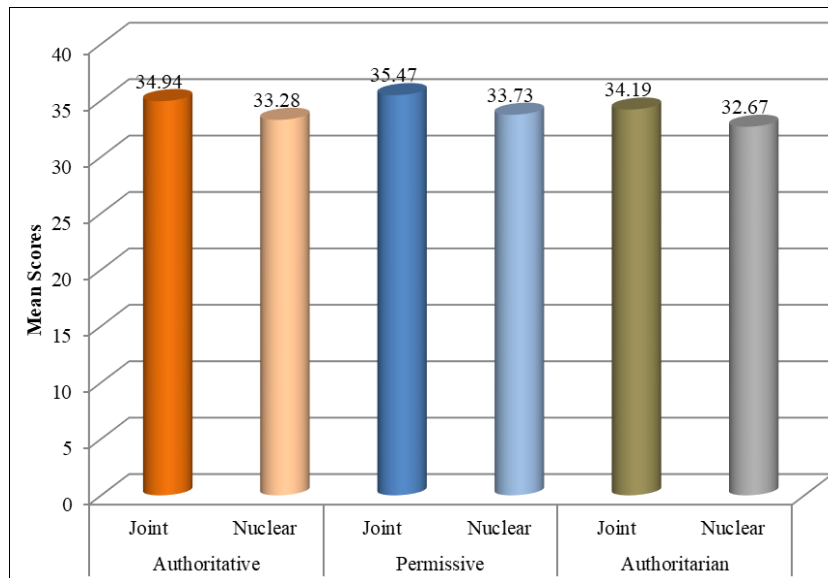


Fig 2: Mean Scores of Paternal Parenting Style among Nuclear and Joint Family Adolescents

The authoritative parenting style is represented by a t-value of 1.66, which can be seen in Table 2. This component showed mean values of 33.28 and 34.94 for adolescents who came from shared households and those who came from nuclear families, respectively. The collective cohort of teenagers had a mean score of 35.47 on the component assessing permissive parenting style, whereas the nuclear cohort received a mean score of 33.73 on the same component. 1.74 was found to be the value of the t-value that was acquired. There are harsh limitations and prohibitions that are enforced by authoritarian parents in the vicinity of the numbers 32.67 and 34.19. A t-value of 1.52 was found to be attained. According to the findings of the research, there were no discernible changes in the level of involvement of fathers among adolescents who were raised in nuclear homes as opposed to joint households.

Conclusion

In contrast to nuclear families joint family households tend to have parents who adopt an authoritative parenting style. A parent's role is to carefully watch over and protect their children, while also creating a safe, engaging, and ethical atmosphere for them. Teens tend to have a more independent perspective on life, while parents typically prioritize providing guidance to their children. Adolescents raised by authoritarian parents often cultivate a mindset that values democracy and democratic principles. Recognizing the importance of setting boundaries, it is also crucial for parents to address their teenagers' emotional needs. The parents have great expectations for their children's emotional growth and hold them in high regard for their ability to think critically and be self-reliant. They eagerly anticipate their teenagers' growth and ability to work well with others. In this study, we examine the dynamics of families and the impact of parents. The study indicates that there is no notable distinction in father-son parenting for teenagers between joint and nuclear households. According to the study, teenagers from mixed-family households exhibited more maternal-like traits compared to their counterparts from nuclear families. Teenagers living in mixed families tend to exhibit a stronger correlation with mothers who adopt an authoritarian parenting style. Girls

raised in multi-generational households often hold their mothers in higher regard compared to those in nuclear families. The study found that there was no difference in the use of paternal parenting tactics between adolescents from joint or nuclear families. Information that is restricted can be accessed by young individuals who reside in families that share living spaces. Family plays a crucial role in shaping the character of children, as they model important virtues like cooperation and respect. However, it is important to carefully consider the advantages and disadvantages of this situation. Parents often have specific expectations regarding their child's development and behaviour. However, adults in the family frequently give children conflicting instructions. When comparing nuclear families to mixed-status families, there is a shift in the concept of parental status. While a blended family offers numerous advantages, it's important to acknowledge that it may not completely eradicate all the challenges that parents may encounter. It is true that the merging of families can lead to the emergence of new challenges.

Recommendation

The combination of high expectations, emotional reaction, and respect for children's autonomy in authoritative parenting makes it one of the most dependable family predictors of competence from early infancy into adolescence. When their children are in the company of their classmates, parents should refrain from passing harsh judgment or openly condemning them. Teens that grow up in authoritative homes tend to mature normally. No parent wants their child to grow up with poor self-esteem, therefore they should never make fun of them or insult them. Adolescents may safely experiment with independence when they have a solid basis. In order to raise healthy, strong teenagers, parents need take a firm stance. It could be helpful to reevaluate authoritarian and relaxed approaches to parenting.

Implications

Family communication and quality time together may be supported by parents, teachers, and neighbours. Youth issues need to be addressed and solutions offered.

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