

Dependence Proneness and Self-concept amongst Male Adolescents in Context of Dimensions of Parental Style

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted on 100 adolescents of intermediate classes in the age group of 15-17 years. It was intended to find out the effect of parental style on dependence proneness and self concept. It was observed that the adolescents of the parents having high power assertion would show more dependence proneness and poor self-concept and that the children of the parents having high love withdrawal would show more dependence proneness and poor self concept.

Introduction:

In the present study parental style was used an independent variable and self-concept and dependence proneness were used as dependent variables. Parental style refers to the parental behaviour in the context of adolescents primary socialization. It refers to behaviour characteristics of parents that is specifically focused on the care, protection, feeding, nurturing etc. Self-concept refers to one's concept of one self in as complete and thorough a description as is possible for one to give. It is contrasted with self-esteem where the emphasis is on the evaluative judgements. Dependence proneness in one sense denotes a group of response tendencies which are instrumental in obtaining social reinforcement. In other sense, it is a motivational construct which refers to a unitary, descriptive drive sharing, the characteristics of being capable of eliciting, attending and administering responses from other (2009 Reber, et al. Bandura and Walters, 1963).

Purpose : The present study was conducted in view of the following objectives:

1. The study aimed at examining the effect of parental style in terms of power assertion and love withdrawal on dependence proneness of the respondents.
2. The study intended to examine the impact of parental style, specially power assertion and love withdrawal on self-concept of the respondents.

Hypotheses:

In view of the objectives of the present study, the following hypotheses were formulated for empirical verification.

1. The adolescents of the parents having high power assertion and love withdrawal would have more dependence proneness compared to those of the adolescents of parents having low power assertion as well as love withdrawal.
2. The adolescents of the parents having high power assertion and love withdrawal would show poor self-concept compared to those of the adolescents of parents having low power assertion and love withdrawal.

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Method of study

Sample: This study was conducted on an incidental-cum-purposive sample consisting of 100 male students of intermediate +2 schools located in the central region of Patna town in the age group of 15-17 years. In other respects they were matched as far as practicable.

Research Tools

In the present study, the following research tools were used :

- (i) A personal data sheet prepared by the researcher himself was used to collect the relevant information about the subjects relating to their age, class, inhabitation, community, sex etc.
- (ii) Parental Disciplinary Scale by Shoaid was administered to the respondents for measuring parental style specially in terms of power assertion and love withdrawal. D.P. Scale by Sinha was administered to the respondents for measuring the degree of their dependence proneness as a trait of personality.
- (iii) Similarly Self-concept Scale by Mohsin (1980) was administered to the respondents and the

degree of their self-concept as the personality component was measured.

Data analysis : The obtained data were analysed and treated using a parametric test namely t-test in view of the nature of the data. This parametric test was found most suited and hence employed.

Results and Interpretations

The results obtained on the basis of t-test relating to the effect of the independent variables on the dependent variables were ascertained as given below

Effect of Parental Style on Dependence Proneness : In order to examine the effect of parental style specially power assertion and love withdrawal on adolescents dependence proneness, the adolescents were divided into those of the parents having high power assertion and love withdrawal on the one hand and those of the parents having low power assertion and love withdrawal on the other. Then t-test was employed to examine the significance of the difference between the two groups and thus results obtained were recorded in table 1 and table II respectively.

Table-01

Showing the significance of difference between the adolescent of high power assertion parents and those of low power assertion parents in terms of dependence proneness.

Subjects	N	Mean	SD	t-ratio	df	p
Adolescent of high power assertion parents	50	60.43	5.17	8.22	98	<.01
Adolescent of low power assertion parents	50	51.88	5.25			

The results displayed in table-01 very clearly showed the effect of power assertion on dependence proneness of the adolescents. The adolescents of high power assertion parents with a mean score of 60.43 have been found significantly more dependence prone than those of low power assertion parents with a mean value of 51.88. The difference between the two groups of adolescents in terms of the dependence proneness is highly significant ($t = 8.22$; $df = 98$; $p < .01$). Thus the first hypothesis is confirmed in context of power assertion.

Table-2

Showing the significance of difference between the adolescent of high love withdrawal and low love withdrawal parents in terms of dependence proneness.

Subjects	N	Mean	SD	t-ratio	df	p
Adolescent of high love withdrawal parents	50	64.76	5.38	10.75	98	<.01
Adolescent of low love withdrawal parents	50	52.93	5.64			

The results contained in table-2 showed significant effect of love withdrawal on adolescents dependence proneness. The results of children of high love withdrawal parents with mean score of 64.76 were found more prone to dependence than those of low love withdrawal parents with a mean score 52.93. The difference between the two means is highly significant ($t = 10.75$; $df = 98$; $p < .01$). Hence the first hypothesis is retained even in the context of love withdrawal.

Effect of power assertion and love withdrawal on self-concept :

The adolescents of high power assertion and low power assertion parents were administered Parental Disciplinary Scale and their scores were collected. Similarly the adolescents of high and low love withdrawal parents were administered the same scale and their scores were obtained. The results obtained were recorded in table 3 & table 4 respectively for power assertion and love withdrawal.

Table- 3

Showing the significance of difference between the adolescent of high power assertion and those of low power assertion in terms of self-concept

Subjects	N	Mean	SD	t-ratio	df	p
Adolescent of high power assertion parents	50	36.64	4.96	8.59	98	<.01
Adolescent of low power assertion parents	50	45.23	5.0			

The results recorded in table-03 showed significant effect of parents power assertion on adolescents self-concept. The adolescents of low power assertion parents showed better self-concept as compared to those of high power assertion parents. The difference between the two means is significant ($t = 8.59$; $df = 98$; $p < .01$). Thus, the second hypothesis is retained in respect of power assertion.

Table-04

Showing the significance of difference between the adolescent of high love withdrawal parents and those of low love withdrawal parents in terms of self-concept.

Subjects	N	Mean	SD	t-ratio	df	p
Adolescent of high love withdrawal parents	50	34.60	5.09	8.97	98	<.01
Adolescent of low love withdrawal parents	50	43.84	5.22			

From table-04 it is evident that parental love withdrawal has shown a significant effect on adolescents self-concept. The adolescent of low love withdrawal parents showed better self-concept than the children of high love withdrawal parents. The difference between the two means has been found highly significant ($t = 8.97$; $df = 98$; $p < .01$). Naturally the second hypothesis is confirmed even in the context of love withdrawal.

Conclusions :

The results of the present study led to the following four categorical conclusions :

- (i) While high power assertion of parents is conducive to dependence proneness low power assertion of parents is conducive to independence proneness.
- (ii) While high power assertion of parents is a barrier in the smooth development of self-concept, low power assertion is facilitatory to better self-concept development.
- (iii) While high parental love withdrawal has facilitatory effect on the development of dependence proneness in children, low love withdrawal is conducive to more independence proneness in the child.
- (iv) While high parental love withdrawal is a hindrance in the development of better self-

concept in the child, low parental love withdrawal is conducive to it.

Suggestion :

To sum up, it is suggested that the parents must practice low power assertion and love withdrawal to their adolescents so that they might develop better self-concept and more independence proneness, which are two major indices of an effective measures for development of adolescents personality.

References:

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