

# Family Constellation Influencing Attitudinal Modernity Amongst Adolescents

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## *ABSTRACT*

*The present study was undertaken to examine the effect of type of the family, size of the family, parenting style and SES on attitudinal modernity. For the purpose, 160 adolescents were selected from the colleges of Muzaffarpur town on the basis of stratified random sampling technique. The findings reveal that the respondents belonging to nuclear family, small family, democratic style family and High SES group showed superiority over their counterparts in respect of attitudinal modernity. Thus, it was concluded that type of the family, size of the family, parenting style and SES are conducive to attitudinal modernity.*

### **Introduction:**

The present study embodies some concepts which need elaboration. The first component modernity refers to just the superficial acquisition of some isolated traits and elements characteristics of the more advanced countries. It brings logical and ordered changes and in the long run the changes are incorporated in the cultural patterns of the population. The second component is nuclear vs joint family. The family having parents and own children are treated as nuclear family and if family includes grand parents, uncle-aunt cousin etc. are defined as joint family. Similarly a family having three or less child are known as small family and family having five or more child called large family. One component is parenting style which refers to the manifestation of parental behaviour in relation to children's primary socialization. It is behaviour characteristics of parents focused on the care, protection, feeding etc.

Several studies have been conducted in India and abroad to visualise the effect of various factors on attitudinal modernity. The study undertaken will be an exploratory as well as confirmatory one.

### **Objectives:**

The present study is undertaken for certain objectives one major objective of the study is to see the impact of the type of the family on attitudinal modernity of the respondents. Another important objective of the present study was to see the impact of the size of the family on attitudinal modernity of the respondents. Third objective of the present study was to see the impact of parenting style on attitudinal modernity of the respondent. The fourth objective is to examine the effect of socio-economic condition on attitudinal modernity of the respondents. Keeping in view the objectives of the present study. The following four hypotheses were formulated for empirical verification:

### **Hypotheses:**

- (i) The respondents belonging to nuclear family would show more attitudinal modernity than those belonging to joint family.
- (ii) The respondents belonging to small family would have more attitudinal modernity than those of large family.
- (iii) There would be significant effect of parenting style on attitudinal modernity of the

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respondents.

- (iv) There would be significant effect of SES on attitudinal modernity irrespective of other familial factors.

**Method of Study:**

**Sample:**

A sample consisting of 100 adolescents respondents were selected from the colleges of Muzaffarpur town using stratified random sampling technique. They were selected in such a way that they must be equal in respect of size of the family, type of the family, parenting style and SES. In other respect the respondents were matched so far as practicable.

**Tools Used:**

The following scales were used:

1. Attitudinal Modernity Scale: The scale was developed by the Post Graduate Department of Psychology, Ranchi University. It includes four dimensions namely Personality, Socio-cultural, Political and Health Modernity. The

Scale consisted of 100 Likert type items. The range or the score for each dimensional Scale is 25-125 and for total Attitudinal Modernity Scale, it is 100-500. The Scale is reliable and a valid measure of Modernity.

2. Personal Data Sheet
3. Akhtar's Parent Child Relationship Scale
4. Kuppuswamy's Socio-economic Status Scale

**Procedure:**

The scales along with PDS were employed on 200 respondents and finally 100 respondents were selected as per requirement. They were divided in to four pair of groups having equal number of respondents in each group using the median values of the respective data. The four pair of groups were nuclear family vs joint family, small family vs large family, democratic parenting style group vs authoritarian parenting style group and high SES group vs low SES groups respectively. The obtained data were treated and analysed using t-ratio.

**Results**

**Table-1**

**t-showing the effect of type of the family on attitudinal modernity of respondents.**

Type of the family	N	Mean	SD	t	df	p
Nuclear Family	50	120.75	5.24	8.60	98	<.01
Joint Family	50	111.98	4.96			

Table-01 reveals that respondents belonging to single family have greater attitudinal modernity than the respondents of joint family. The difference between the two groups is statistically significant (t = 8.60; df = 98; p<.01).

**Table-2**

**t-showing the effect of size of the family on attitudinal modernity of respondents.**

Size of the family	N	Mean	SD	t	df	p
Small	50	113.96	4.85	9.09	98	<.01
Large	50	105.23	4.81			

Table-02 indicates that subjects or respondents belonging to small family have greater attitudinal modernity than the respondents belonging to large family. The difference between the two groups is statistically significant ( $t = 9.09$ ;  $df = 98$ ;  $p < .01$ ).

**Table-03**

t-showing the effect of parenting style on attitudinal modernity of respondents.

Groups	N	Mean	SD	t	df	p
Democratic. Parenting Style	50	120.95	5.27	8.60	98	<.01
Authoritarian Parenting Style	50	113.75	4.98			

Table-03 indicates that respondents belonging to democratic parenting style group have greater attitudinal modernity than the respondents belonging to authoritarian parenting style group. The difference between the two groups is statistically significant ( $t = 7.06$ ;  $df = 98$ ;  $p < .01$ ).

**Table-4**

t-showing the effect of SES on attitudinal modernity of respondents.

Groups	N	Mean	SD	t	df	p
High SES	50	118.31	5.23	7.69	98	<.01
Low SES	50	110.08	5.45			

Table-04 reveals that the respondents belonging to high SES group have greater attitudinal modernity than the respondents belonging to low SES group. The difference between the two groups is statistically significant ( $t = 7.69$ ;  $df = 98$ ;  $p < .01$ ).

#### **Discussion and Interpretation:**

The findings of the present study clearly reveal that attitudinal modernity is highly influenced by the type of the family, size of the family, parenting style and socio-economic status of the respondents. It has been found that respondents belonging to nuclear family have greater attitudinal modernity than the respondents belonging to joint family. The results are consistent with the previous finding (Alam, 1981). The findings might be interpreted on the ground that respondents belonging to nuclear family are usually more affluent than the respondents belonging to large family. The

members of nuclear family are generally educated having better socio-economic conditions and higher level of need for achievement and aspiration and as seen they develop more attitudinal modernity as compared with the members of large family. Similarly the findings of Table-2 showed that respondents belonging to small family showed greater attitudinal modernity than the respondents of large family. The interpretation remains the same on the part of the respondents of small family than the respondents of large family. The superiority of democratic parenting

style group over authoritarian parenting style group might be interpreted on the ground of more freedom, greater flexibility, better opportunity to be exposed etc. on the part of the respondents of democratic parenting style group than their counterparts leading to more attitudinal modernity. The obtained results also confirmed that

respondents belonging to high socio-economic status have shown greater attitudinal modernity than three respondents belonging to low SES group. The findings might be interpreted on the ground that people of high socio-economic status are better educated, have more external exposure and interaction with external world. On the other hand people of low socio-economic status are illiterate or less educated and have less opportunity of interaction of people belonging to different cultures. So the people of high SES are more prone to social change while there is a greater resistance to change in the people belonging to low SES. The findings are in agreement with the previous studies like Ahsan (1988), Manjri (1990), Mishra & Prasad (1976), Rama (1980), Sinha (1993), Sahay & Singh (1989), Singh (1984), Singh (1992), Thapa (1986), Enayatullah et al. (1997).

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