

PARENTAL AND PEER PRESSURE ON COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Abstract

The present study was aimed to find out parental and peer pressure on college students. The sample consisted of 480 participants selected randomly from different colleges in Rajkot city. The participants were assessed translated Gujarati version of peer pressure scale constructed by Andrew and Hatch (1999) was used to collect information about peer pressure and personal data sheet. The data was analyzed by using ANOVA. Students father's occupation was categorized in four groups viz; government job, private job, business and other work. Then, One Way ANOVA was carried out to analyze the data of peer pressure among subjects of all three groups. Result indicated that there is significant difference among student father's occupation on peer pressure significant impact was found. The most striking results were obtained for the group of students with other work father's occupation. These groups of students experienced highest level of peer pressure as compared to all the three groups of students having government job, private job and business of father's occupation. However, students having government job and private job of father's occupation experienced similar level of peer pressure and they significantly scored lower in peer pressure than students belonging to other work father's occupation and business of father's occupation.

Key words : Peer pressure

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Introduction

The child born in family so Parents play a crucial role in direct relation to children's behavior and well-being. During childhood the family environment constitutes the basic social ecology in which the child's behavior is manifested, learned, encouraged or suppressed (Dishion and Patterson 2006). Adolescence has been described as a phase of life beginning in biology and ending in society (Petersen,1988). Indeed, adolescence may be defined as the period within the life span when most of a person's biological, cognitive, psychological and social characteristics are changing from what is typically considered child-like to what is considered adult-like (Lerner & Spanier,1980). For the adolescent, this period is a dramatic challenge, one requiring adjustment to changes in the self in the family and in the peer group.

Diana Baumrind found what she considered to be the four basic elements that could help shape successful parenting: responsiveness vs. unresponsiveness and demanding vs. undemanding. **Maccoby and Martin(1983)** expanded the parenting styles to four:

1The authoritative parenting is the most common and considered most successful style. It is democratic parenting style. These parents' holds high expectations, provide explanations for rules, and create an environment of warmth and caring for their children.

2Authoritarian parenting is a restrictive, punitive style in which parents advise the child to follow their directions and to respect their work and effort.

3Permissive parenting parents decide to give lots of freedom and hope to their children they will do what is best.

4Neglectful parenting is low in warmth and control, are generally not involved in their child's life are disengaged, undemanding, low in responsiveness and do not set limits.

Agrawal and Balyan(2011) examined the effect of parenting style and living environment on approach coping strategies; and examined the effect of parenting style and living environment on avoidance coping strategies. Results showed that parenting style and living environment affect the ways of coping in adolescents. During adolescence, less time is spent with parents and family and more time is spent with friends, who act as an important source of social support (Brown & Klute,2006).

According to Erik Erikson, adolescence is the age in which people must set up an identity to escape identity diffusion and confusion. At this age, adolescents give much importance to their

friends who have a power over them. This phenomenon is called “peer pressure.” The adolescents learn about themselves from friends may differs from what they learn about themselves from parents. The skills, values and behavior rewarded by one group may be different from those rewarded by the other. Parent’s has certain value system and norms they want from their children to follow them and fulfill their expectations this is parent pressure. Whereas, the peer pressure is defined as the influence exerted by a peer group in encouraging a person to change his or her attitude, values, behavior in order to confirm the group norms (Elliot, 2001).

Tope(2011) that parents and teachers may provide adequate guidance to adolescents to help them understand how the friends can positively or negatively influence their academic performance. Akhtar, Aziz(2011) investigate the finding of the study were the parent pressure effect positively and peer pressure effects negatively the academic achievement of students and especially female university students. No effect of peer and parent pressure was found on the achievement of male students. The parent’s pressure has positive effect on the academic achievement of business administration students. Boujlaleb(2006) said that “peers have a more powerful influence on adolescents as compared to families”.

Research Objectives

To study whether father’s occupation has any effect on peer pressure experienced by college students.

HYPOTHESES :

There is not any significant mean difference on peer pressure of college students to government job, private job, business and other work father’s occupation.

METHOD :

Sample

The present study was conducted on a sample of 480 college students in the different colleges of Rajkot.

Instruments

Peer Pressure Scale

Peer pressure scale new developed by Andrew & Hatch(1999). The 22 items of peer pressure. It is a self report 5 point likert scale. The score 1 represent the option ‘strongly disagree’ while option 5 on the scale represent the category ‘strongly agree.’

Results and discussion:

To examine the effect of father's occupation, as presented in Table- 1.1, father's occupation was categorized in four groups viz; government job, private job, business and other work. Then, One Way ANOVA was carried out to analyze the data of peer pressure among subjects of all three groups. Results are presented in Table-1.2 and 1.3.

Table – 1.1
Means of peer pressure with reference to
Father's occupation (N = 480)

Father's occupation	N	Mean	SD
Government job	60	38.05	11.82
Private job	87	38.24	13.58
Business	245	40.42	12.94
Other work	88	43.19	12.98

Table - 1.2
ANOVA summary of peer pressure with reference
to Father's occupation (N = 480)

Source	S.S	Df	M.S.	F	Sig. level
BSS	1410.37	3	470.12	2.81**	0.04
WSS	79598.03	476	167.22		
TSS	81008.40	479			

*P< 0.05=2.62, **P< 0.01=3.83

F-test was applied to check the effect of father's occupation on peer pressure significant impact was found. The F-value is 2.81 which is statistically significant at 0.05 level (Table-1.2). Hence the null hypothesis is not any significant mean difference on peer pressure of adolescents having different father's occupation was rejected.

For further interpretation of this result Tukey test was applied to find out the significance of differences among mean scores of all three groups. Results are mentioned Table-1.3.

Table - 1.3
Summary of Tukey Test for peer pressure
with reference to father's occupation

Groups	Govt. job (38.05)	Private job (38.24)	Business (40.42)	Other work (43.19)
Govt. job (38.05)	-	0.19	2.37*	5.14**
Private job (38.24)	-	-	2.18*	4.95**
Business (40.42)	-	-	-	2.77**
Other work (43.19)	-	-	-	-

*P < 0.05 = 1.95, **P < 0.01 = 2.43

So far as the impact of father's occupation on peer pressure is concerned, out of possible six comparisons two mean differences were found significant at 0.01 level and three mean difference was found significant at 0.05 level by computing Tukey test. The most striking results were obtained for the group of students with other work father's occupation. These groups of students experienced highest level of peer pressure as compared to all the three groups of students having government job, private job and business of father's occupation. However, students having government job and private job of father's occupation experienced similar level of peer pressure and they significantly scored lower in peer pressure than students belonging to other work father's occupation and business of father's occupation.

Peer pressure is one of the most dangerous aspects of adolescence to which teenagers are exposed. Consequently, parents should care more about their adolescents until they overcome this critical age. They should be helpful to their children and they should talk to them as friends not as authoritative parents because adolescents are convinced more when they are with an open-minded person who shows both understandability and kindness. Otherwise, adolescents will encounter crisis and will hide them in their psychology and as explained by Lawrence Kohlberg, and these disorders will appear lately with more psychotraumatic troubles.

CONCLUSION :

On the basis of above findings it can be concluded that peer pressure profoundly influences parental occupation experienced by the students. The most striking results were obtained for the group of students with other work father's occupation. These groups of students experienced highest level of peer pressure as compared to all the three groups of students having government job, private job and business of father's occupation.

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