Is Self-Derogation among Adolescents, a product of unfavourable Home Environment? Study in a developing country
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Background of the Study

- In India, children constitute nearly 40% of the population, a significant portion of which suffer mental ailments.
- Attaining the goal of mental health for all is critically related to the planning and complementing educational programme (Baroota & Mishra, 1997).
- Home environment affects children’s psychological development (cognitive, language, emotional, social, moral and sexual development).
- Family members may influence the self concept and personality traits the child develops.
- Negative self attitudes will result in psychologically and/or socially defined deviance (Kaplan & Meyrowitz, 1970).
- Current study investigates, will home environment be affecting adolescents’ self-derogation?

Key Terms

1. Self-Derogation: degree of negative affect concerning image (Kaplan, 1969); inversely related to mental health.
2. Home Environment: conditions, forces and external stimuli which impinge upon the individual. The term denotes the different dimensions available to individuals at home such as parental attention and involvement, physical facilities, parents’ input in their assignments and discussions, parental control over their work habits and general behaviour.

Students in grade 11 and 12 of Kerala state, India.

400 students studying in grade 11 from 10 higher secondary schools of two educational districts in Kerala state are taken as a representative sample.

Methodology

A. Measures

Home Environment Questionnaire (50 items)

1. Material Facility (13 items, α = 0.87)
2. Study Habits (10 items, α = 0.68)
3. Parental Attitude (10 items, α = 0.76)
4. Family Relations (14 items, α = 0.71)

B. Sample

Proportionate stratified random sampling

C. Statistical Techniques

- Pearson’s Bivariate Correlation
- Test of Significance of Difference

Results

1. CORRELATION BETWEEN SELF DEROGATION AND FOUR COMPONENTS OF HOME ENVIRONMENT FOR THE WHOLE SAMPLE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENTS</th>
<th>COEFFICIENT OF CORRELATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATERIAL FACILITY</td>
<td>-0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDY HABITS</td>
<td>-0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARENTAL ATTITUDE</td>
<td>-0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMILY RELATION</td>
<td>-0.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. CORRELATION BETWEEN SELF DEROGATION AND HOME ENVIRONMENT FOR WHOLE SAMPLE AND SUB SAMPLES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAMPLE</th>
<th>COEFFICIENT OF CORRELATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHOLE SAMPLE</td>
<td>-0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>-0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMALE</td>
<td>-0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RURAL</td>
<td>-0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBAN</td>
<td>-0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIVATE</td>
<td>-0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>-0.92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The low correlation between self-derogation and home environment shown by males can be due to the greater degree of freedom they enjoy in the society.

Implications of the study

- Home is playing a significant role in developing a positive self-feeling in adolescents.
- Family atmosphere should be emotionally congenial and cognitively stimulatory.
- Strong parent-child relationship is necessary for the development of positive self concept.
- Teacher should know the students intimately and those children with high degree of self derogation should be given special care.
- Teacher-parent relationship should be strong.
- Further studies can be conducted by extending the factors under home environment.
- Influence of teacher-student interactions and peer interactions on self derogation can be studied.

References


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