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**Gender Differences in the Home Environment of Adolescents in Pithoragarh District of Uttarakhand**

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| **\*Corresponding author**  *Vallari T. Kukreti*  **Article History**  *Received: 23.08.2017*  *Accepted: 28.08.2017*  *Published: 30.09.2017*  **DOI:**  10.36347/sjahss.2017.v05i09.021  **C:\Users\Habibur Rahman\Downloads\SJAHSS.png** | **Abstract:** Personality of an individual is highly influenced by his or her home environment. Home environment functions in the framework of the culture. Hence, the present study was conducted to investigate gender differences in the home environment of adolescents in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand. For the purpose, a sample of 100 adolescents was taken and Home Environment Inventory (HEI) was employed on them. The results revealed significant gender difference on the deprivation of privileges and rejection dimensions of the home environment. Females perceived their home environment to be significantly more deprived of privileges and rejecting than their male counterparts. Cultural variations may be revealed when various states of India will be compared on the perceived home environment. Hence, a further research in this arena is required with large sample size.  **Keywords:** Home environment, gender, perception, adolescents and culture. |
| **INTRODUCTION**  As an individual passes through various developmental stages in his life, diverse factors mark significant impact on his personality. One such vital factor is the environment of the individual. The first environment which an individual experiences in his life is the home environment. Home environment is one of the most conspicuous factors which mold one’s cognitions. The perception of a person towards self and |

others is greatly governed by the experiences incorporated during the process of interaction between the various elements or significant others of the home environment. These experiences, in turn, dictate the entire demeanor of an individual. The vulnerable ages in a person’s life, where, the home environment plays a pivotal role in molding an individual’s personality are childhood and adolescence. Nurturance requirements are essential during childhood. Adolescence being a phase of physical and psychological changes requires a congenial, understanding and supportive home environment, which enables an adolescent to deal with various stressors, develop clarity among thought processes, decisiveness and development of self-image. Specifically, during adolescence the challenges of meeting the diverse psycho-physiological requirements of this development phase are numerous. Many researchers have emphasized that home environment plays a pivotal role in influencing the various arenas of adolescent development. The quality home environment effects creativity [1], learning [2], self-concept [3], entire psychological well-being [4], etc. of adolescents.

Home environment fulfils the developmental requirement within the cultural framework. The cultural component is immediately visible in family adaptation to home care [5]. It is also, evident that in India cultural expectations are gender specific. In India, gender is an important aspect during the upbringing process and typically influenced by the culture of that state, then, it implies that the results of home environment perception in reference to gender of one state cannot be generalized on the other states exhibiting entirely different nuances of culture. Hence, the present study was conducted with the objective of investigating gender differences in the home environment of adolescents in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.

**METHODOLOGY**

For the present exploratory study a sample of 100 adolescents (50 males and 50 females) of 14-16 years of age range was collected through random sampling technique. The sample was taken from the two randomly selected government intercolleges of urban regions of Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand. The sample was restricted to adolescents were not under any medication for psychological or physiological problems, residing in Pithoragarh for the past ten years and are from middle socio-economic status.

Home Environment Inventory (HEI) [6] consists of ten dimensions, namely, control, protectiveness, punishment, conformity, social isolation, reward, deprivation of privilege, nurturance, rejection and permissiveness was employed for the purpose. The split half reliability of HEI is 0.726 and validity is high.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The results of the present study are tabulated below:

**Table-1: Gender differences on various dimensions of home environment**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.no. | Variable | Mean | | SD | | t-value |
| Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 1. | Control | 20.38 | 21.46 | 5.38 | 4.34 | 1.12 |
| 2. | Protectiveness | 26.90 | 28.28 | 5.15 | 5.41 | 1.33 |
| 3. | Punishment | 24.54 | 25.2 | 5.85 | 5.32 | 0.58 |
| 4. | Conformity | 31.84 | 30.94 | 4.79 | 5.21 | 0.08 |
| 5. | Social Isolation | 11.82 | 12.16 | 6.19 | 7.03 | 0.27 |
| 6. | Reward | 30.20 | 31.4 | 4.41 | 4.54 | 1.36 |
| 7. | Deprivation of Priviliges | 10.5 | 13.16 | 5.24 | 7.24 | **2.11**\* |
| 8. | Nurturance | 22.96 | 24.58 | 4.91 | 5.19 | 1.64 |
| 9. | Rejection | 8.18 | 10.66 | 4.89 | 6.66 | **2.14**\* |
| 10. | Permissiveness | 18.34 | 20.10 | 5.56 | 6.24 | 1.50 |

\*p≤0.05

Table 1 represents the gender differences in home environment on its various dimensions, namely, control, protectiveness, punishment, conformity, social isolation, reward, deprivation of privilege, nurturance, rejection and permissiveness.

On observing various dimensions of home environment in Table 1 the following results were revealed. It is seen that the mean values on control dimension of females is 21.46 and of males is 20.38. That is, females perceive their home environment to be more controlling than males but this difference is not significant (t value=1.12). The protectiveness dimension reveals means of 26.90 and 28.28 by males and females respectively but the difference is not significant (t value=1.33). Girls reveal their home environment to be employing more punishment (mean=25.2) than boys (mean=24.54) but the difference is again not significant (t value=0.58). Similarly, gender differences in social isolation (means=11.82 of males, 12.16 of females and t value=0.27), reward (means=30.20 of males, 31.4 of females and t value=1.36), nurturance (means=22.96 of males, 24.58 of females and t value=1.64), conformity (means=31.84 of males, 30.94 of females and t value=0.08) and permissiveness (means=18.34 of males, 20.10 of female and t value=1.50) are found to be non-significant. In control dimension, the present study indicate that though girls perceive their home environment to be more controlling but there is no significant difference. This result is partially supported by the previous study as on one hand, the previous meta analytic study reveals that parents are slightly more controlling with boys than with girls and on the other hand, the effect size was found to be negligible [7]. The result of the present study on the control dimension was found to be in contrast with the previous finding revealing significant gender differences in this dimension of home environment [8]. This may be the small size of the present study. Contrary to the findings of the present study, a previous study revealed significant gender differences on the dimensions protectiveness, social isolation, reward and permissiveness [8]. This may be due the small sample size taken in the present study as well as the cultural influences in the parental care which are vital in developing and maintaining the home environment of an adolescent. The results of the present study on the dimensions punishment, conformity and nurturance are supported by the results of the previous study [8].

Significant gender differences are revealed in deprivation of privileges and rejection dimensions of home environment. On the dimension deprivation of privileges, the mean of males is found to be 10.5 and females is 13.16. The t value is 2.11. This reflects that females experience more deprivation of privileges in home environment than their male counterparts. This result of the present study is strikingly different from the previous study conducted on the adolescents of Punjab, India, where, it was reported that the males experience significantly more deprivation of privileges, such as, their right to seek love, respect and child care from parents than their female counterparts[8]. This difference in results may be due to the cultural variations in the perceptions of child care in accordance to the gender of the child between the two states (Uttarakhand and Punjab).

Similarly, on the rejection dimension, the mean of males is 8.18 and the mean of females is 10.66. The t value is 2.14. This reveals that the females experience more rejection in home environment than their male counterparts. The previous findings indicate towards males perceive their parents to be significantly more rejecting than females [8]. This may be due to the cultural discrepancies between the two states (Uttarakhand and Punjab) from where the samples have been drawn for the studies.

**CONCLUSION**

After analyzing the above results, it could be concluded that female adolescents perceive more deprivation of privileges and rejection than male adolescents. Future studies may explore and compare the cultural variations in home environment among various states of India with a large sample size.

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