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ANALYTICAL STUDY OF FAMILY, SELF AND GENDER

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Abstract:

The purpose of this study was to find out the effect of family type on Self-concept. A sample of 300 families was used in this study. Families were divided into four categories as under: -

- 1) *One child family: Consists of one child in addition to the parents.*
- 2) *The small family: One in which there are two or three children.*
- 3) *The medium sized family: -Has three to five children.*
- 4) *The large family: Has six or more children. In addition it consists of grandfather, grandmother, uncles, aunts and cousins.*

By using the Self Concept scale, prepared by Dr. Mukta Rani Rastogi data was collected and suitable statistical treatment was given to the data for analysis of the scores. Results shows that the size of family, from small to big does have some effect on the Self Concept of the individual.

KEY WORDS:

Family type, Self-concept.

INTRODUCTION

Industrial revolution, Second World War, urbanization and population explosion are the responsible factors for the social change. Family is the basic unit of society, has also undergone many changes. These changes affect on the self-concept.

There are many determinants of Self Concept but some of them are more critical. Family is one such determinant, which tremendously influences personality development of an individual. Tremendous scientific and technological progress made our social lives more complex and stressful.

The old Indian pattern of the joint family is rapidly disintegrating, which until now profoundly influenced the development of children's Self Concept. In addition, T.V. and other mass media are strongly influencing our behavior patterns. They are creating difficulties in the process of socialization, which is very necessary for social adjustment as well as community development. The purpose of this study was to find out the effect of family type on self-concept.

Family: -

Of all the conditions that influence on self-concept, relationship between the individual & the members of his family unquestionably rank first. By contrast with the home, the school is indeed secondary. The home is the person's primary environment from the time he is born until the day he dies. While it may

change over the years, owing to relocation marriage, divorce, death & birth of new members remain relatively constant.

Most people think of the home influence as limited to the childhood years. They regard parents & siblings as the only family members who exercise a cardinal influence. These benefits have been totally disproved. There are ample evidences that family influences are ruling determinants of what the persons concept of self will be in adult life as well as in childhood & that spouse & offspring's exert as strong an influence as parents & siblings in the early years of life.

Size of Family:-

The kind of family a person grows up in or leaves in as an adult is influenced by its size & composition in terms of the people who live under the same roof & are interrelated in their patterns of living. The size of family influences the self-concept directly & indirectly.

Directly, it determines what role the person will play in the family constellation, what kind of relationship he will have with other family members & to a large extent, what opportunities will have to make the most of his native abilities. Indirectly, family size influences the self concept through the kind of home climate fostered by families of different sizes & by the attitudes of the most significant members of the family towards the person. According to popular belief, the larger the family the more frictional it will be. This has been explained mathematically by Bossard & Boll (1966) . They say that the number of interpersonal relationships in a family can be determined by the following formula.

$$X = (Y^2 - Y) / 2$$

Where X is the number of interpersonal relationships & Y is the number of family members.

Self Concept:-

The term self-concept has great significance. Self concept, self esteem, self evaluation and self picture are often used synonymously

Research investigations related to self-concept have important indicators. In the field of psychology the term self concept is so widely used that in its most native sense it can be generally understood as a persons ideas, feelings and attitudes about ones self i.e. how one perceives oneself. There are many approaches to explain the term self' with different perspectives and point of view.

It is concluded that the low self-ideal disparity subjects were better adjusted than high self-ideal disparity subjects. The results reported by different psychologists emphasized the view that self-concept is a consistent predictor of behavior.

The individuals view of himself is his self concept." Who he is?" because he is personally involved in his environment as shown by his claims 'my house', 'my college', 'our street', this environment is also a part of his self.

Following hypotheses are proposed for the present research work.

- 1) Children of One child Family have good self-concept.
- 2) Children of small size Family and medium size family have better self-concept.
- 3) Children of large Family have very high self-concept.
- 4) Females have better self-concept than males.
- 5) There are likely, urban rural differences when family size is related to self-concept

METHODOLOGY:-

A sample of 300 families of different sizes was used in this study. Families were divided into four categories as under: -

- 1) One child Family: - Consists of one child in addition to the parents.
- 2) The small family: - One in which there are two or three children.
- 3) The medium sized family: - Has three to five children.
- 4) The large family: - Has six or more children. In addition it consists of grandfather, grandmother, uncles, aunts and cousins.

Sr.No.	Family pattern	Background						Total
		Rural			Urban			
		F	M	T	F	M	T	
1.	One child family	07	18	25	01	24	25	50
2.	Small size family	17	33	50	12	38	50	100
3.	Medium size family	29	21	50	13	37	50	100
4.	Large family	09	16	25	07	18	25	50
Total		62	88	150	33	117	150	300

Tools:**Self Concept scale (SCS)**

The Self Concept scale was prepared by Dr. Mukta Rani Rastogi.

This scale provides 10 separate dimensions of self concept, viz, Health and sex appropriateness, Abilities, Self confidence, Self acceptance, Worthiness, present, past, future, Beliefs and convictions, feeling of shame and guilty, sociability, emotional maturity. It also gives a total self-concept score of an individual. The inventory contains 51 items. Each item is provided with five alternatives. Responses were obtained on the test booklet itself.

Sub test consistency for Marathi translation: -

The self-concept scale has ten sub scales or sub tests. The sub test consistency (consistency among the ten sub tests) has been calculated by employing Cronbatch Alfa, which yielded value of 0.71, which is quite satisfactory.

Scoring :-

The respondent is provided with five alternatives, i.e. 5-strongly agree, 4-agree, 3-undecided, 2-disagree, 1- strongly disagree.

The positive items are scored from five to one for responses and negative items are scored from one to five for the same response alternatives.

The test manual gives the validity and reliability figures as under

Validity	Reliability
Only content validity was obtained by the author is found to be high.	Reliability was obtained by using split half method.

DATAANALYSIS AND RESULTS :-

In the present work family types, Gender & Background are dependent variables and 10 dependent variables of self concept scales namely-1) Health & sex appropriateness 2) Abilities 3) Self confidence 4) Self acceptance 5) Worthiness 6) present, past & future 7) Beliefs & convictions 8) feeling of shame & guilt 9) sociability 10) emotional maturity.

The data analyses employed in this work have been classified in two divisions.

- 1) Descriptive statistics
- 2) Multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA)

Family type wise Means and Standard deviations

	One child Family		Small size family		Medium size family		Large family		Entire sample	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
Health & sex appropriateness	20.560	3.715	21.480	3.205	20.800	3.505	20.460	3.710	20.930	3.486
Abilities	28.740	4.997	29.070	5.022	28.670	5.043	29.200	4.638	28.903	4.943
Self confidence	17.880	3.567	18.330	3.382	17.820	3.141	17.740	3.319	17.987	3.317
Self acceptance	11.500	2.929	11.800	2.701	11.730	2.806	12.080	2.415	11.773	2.723
Worthiness	23.220	4.652	24.660	4.407	24.430	3.565	24.680	3.722	24.347	4.089
Present, past, future	16.420	3.465	16.910	3.303	16.390	3.172	17.720	2.829	16.790	3.232
Beliefs & convictions	10.700	2.215	11.490	2.106	10.920	2.237	11.120	2.396	11.107	2.227
Feeling shame & Guilt	12.360	3.685	12.590	3.328	12.510	3.116	12.720	3.295	12.547	3.301
Sociability	12.260	2.221	12.040	2.748	12.400	2.682	12.500	2.435	12.273	2.587
Emotional maturity	10.340	3.662	9.750	3.239	10.200	3.244	10.340	3.108	10.097	3.287

Evaluation of assumptions underlying MANOVA

MANOVA is a technique, which is particularly suitable for studying the effect of one or more independent variables on a set of correlated dependent variables. To assess whether the dependent variables employed in each MANOVA are correlated and to assess whether the application of each MANOVA is really justified, Bartlett's test of sphericity was applied to the concern pooled within cells correlation matrix before carrying out each of the MANOVA (Norusis /spss Inc 1990 b) The results of these tests are presented in following table.

Independent variable – family type

Dependent variable	Determinant of pooled within – cells correlation matrix	Bartlett's test statistics	df	Significance
Self concept scale	0.23513	422.467	45	<0.001

Independent variable – Background (Rural vs Urban)

Dependent variable	Determinant of pooled within – cells correlation matrix	Bartlett's test statistics	df	Significance
Self concept scale	0.23800	421.796	45	<0.001

Independent variable – Gender (Female vs Male)

Dependent variable	Determinant of pooled within – cells correlation matrix	Bartlett's test statistics	df	Significance
Self concept scale	0.23439	426.288	45	<0.001

DISCUSSIONS:-**Effect of family types on self concept :-**

Employing family type as the independent variable & all sub tests (10) of self-concept scale as the dependent variables MANOVA was carried out. It yielded Pillai's criterion value of 0.09350. The transformation of Pillai's criterion provided $F = 0.930$ (hypothesis $df = 30$, error $df = 867$, $p = 0.576$). Since Pillai's criterion is not significant therefore no further univariate analysis has been carried out. Thus hypothesis number 1, 2 & 3 are not found significant differences.

Effect of Background on self concept :-

Employing background (rural vs urban) as the independent variable & all sub tests (10) of self-concept scale as the dependent variables MANOVA was carried out. It yielded Pillai's criterion value of 0.5499. The transformation of Pillai's criterion provided $F = 1.682$ (hypothesis $df = 10$, error $df = 289$, $p = 0.084$).

Since Pillai's criterion is not significant, no further analysis has been carried out. Thus the results regarding total self-concept supports hypothesis no.5

Effect of Gender on self concept :-

Employing gender (female vs. male) as the independent variable & all sub tests (10) of self-concept scale as the dependent variables MANOVA was carried out. It yielded Pillai's criterion value of 0.08608. The transformation of Pillai's criterion provided $F = 2.722$ (hypothesis $df = 10$, error $df = 289$, $p < 0.005$). The multivariate η^2 is 0.086, which means that Gender explains 8.6 % of variance is the best linear combination (canonical variate) of self-concept. Since Pillai's criterion is significant (at 0.005 level) multiple univariate t tests were carried out to identify the specific dependent variables whose Gender wise means differs significantly. The results in this context are shown in following table.

Results of univariate t tests followed by significant MANOVA results with gender as the independent variable and self-concept as dependent variable.

Dependent variable	Female		Male		T*	p	Effect size d
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.			
1)Health & sex appropriateness	21.274	3.648	20.771	3.406	1.163	--	--
2)Abilities	29.926	4.816	28.429	4.941	2.461	<0.05	0.31
3)Self confidence	18.242	3.527	17.868	3.217	0.908	--	--
4)Self acceptance	12.211	2.851	11.571	2.644	1.902	--	--
1) Worthiness	24.074	3.963	24.473	4.150	0.787	--	--
6) Present, past & future	17.063	3.245	16.663	3.227	0.996	--	--
7) Beliefs & convictions	11.653	2.206	10.854	2.196	2.927	<0.05	0.36
8) Feeling of shame and guilty	12.716	3.020	12.468	3.428	0.603	--	--
9) Sociability	12.032	2.656	12.358	2.554	1.102	--	--
10) Emotional maturity	9.726	3.253	10.268	3.296	1.330	--	--

*Based on 298 df

-- Denotes not significant of 0.05 level

The examination of table indicates that the difference between the means of female subjects and male subjects are significant for abilities (at 0.05 level) and beliefs and convictions (at 0.05 level). The female subjects have significantly higher mean for abilities, beliefs and convictions than the male subjects. The effect size of abilities, beliefs and convictions are in the low to medium range. The differences between the means of female and male subjects are not significant for health and sex appropriateness, self confidence, self acceptance Worthiness, present, past & future, feeling of shame & guilt, sociability, emotional maturity. Thus the results supports hypothesis no.4

CONCLUSION:-

Broadly, it may be said that the size of the family, from very small to big does have some effect on the self-concept of the individual

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