

Golden Research Thoughts

SECURITY- INSECURITY FEELING AMONG ADOLESCENT GIRLS

Abstract:-

Security –Insecurity are two factors which to a great extent determine the personality of adolescents. Security is a highly valued goal, which may be difficult to reach because of different threats and risks in personal lives and in near and global environments. The present paper investigated the impact of employment status of mother(working and non-working), family structure (nuclear and joint families) and local(rural and urban) on the feeling of security-insecurity among adolescent girls. The sample consisted of 100 adolescent girls (50 adolescent girls from urban area & 50 Adolescent girls from rural area) All of them were selected from 10 private and government schools of Sonipat district (Haryana). The technique of sampling employed was stratified random sampling. Shah Security-Insecurity



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Scale Developed by Dr. Beena Shah was used to collect the data. The results revealed that adolescents of working and non-working mothers as well as belonging to joint and nuclear families differ significantly on security insecurity feeling. However the study did not find any significant difference among adolescent girls of rural and urban areas in regard to security insecurity feeling.

Keywords:

Security- insecurity feeling, adolescent girls.

INTRODUCTION

A feeling of security is essential for balanced development of personality of an individual. Feeling of Security is a state of mind in which one is willing to accept the consequences of one's behaviors. Feeling of insecurity often develops shyness, paranoia and social withdrawal or depression. Girls and women experience human insecurity differently from men and are subject to gender hierarchies and power inequities that exacerbate their insecurity. Because of their lower status, girls and women are less able to articulate and act upon their security needs, as compared with boys and men. Feeling secured is essential condition for all round development of adolescent girls. Modern psychologists have shown that the most important factor for an adolescent's healthy development is love and affection and sense of security which is further dependent on the attitude of parents towards their children (Bossard & Boll, 1954). Security and insecurity are broad concepts that include a variety of contexts (from close relationships to global issues). Previous studies have showed that insecurity may be either context dependent or universal (Taimalu et al., 2006, 72), local-everyday or global (Pain et al., 2010), or a somehow polarized phenomenon where some perceive either close issues or global and distant issues positively while others view them as negatives. Security is a state of mind in which one is willing to accept the consequences of one's behaviours. All the aspects of an individual's behaviour in all areas of his life can be interpreted in terms of security (Blatz, 1967). Security prepares the ground for mental health and creative activities of the individuals by which they make adjustments to their environment (Shankar, 1958). Erich Fromm (2000) was one of the scholars who wrote about feelings of inferiority. He emphasized security as a need to belong and avoid loneliness. Abraham Maslow describes an insecure person as a person who "perceives the world as a threatening jungle and most human beings as dangerous and selfish; feels a rejected and isolated person, anxious and hostile; is generally pessimistic and unhappy; shows signs of tension and conflict, tends to turn inward; is troubled by guilt-feelings, has one or another disturbance of self-esteem; tends to be neurotic; and is generally selfish and egocentric" (Maslow, 1942).

Feelings of insecurity caused by various factors in family, school and social environment, relationship with friends and parents, uncertainties of future life can lead an adolescent girl to utmost despair, sometimes even suicide. Parents' behaviours experienced during early adolescence affects later young adults' feelings of security (Weinfield, Sroufe, & Egeland, 2000). With respect to mothers' employment status, research suggests that maternal employment, by itself, is unlikely to impede a child's social and emotional development (Gottfried & Gottfried, 2006). An unsupportive parenting plays a major role in developing the feelings of insecurity among adolescents (Dewies, Harold, Goeke, Morey, & Cummings, 2002). Parental under control or over control diminishes children's sense of security by either increasing feelings of lack of protection or feelings of actual physical or emotional danger in the presence of harsh punishment (Dewies et al., 2002). An unavailable parent may leave children and early adolescents without the needed support in moments of threat and danger. Therefore the children and early adolescents appraise their parents' emotional availability or lack of availability in terms of the way that it affects their security. In fact, the opposite may be true, for children of working mothers, particularly daughters, tend to be more independent, to enjoy higher self-esteem, and to hold higher educational and occupational aspirations and less stereotyped views of men and women than those whose mothers are not employed (Hoffman, 1989; Richards and Duckett, 1994). Nye (1952) has pointed out that there is better parent-adolescent relationship in homes where mothers are employed full time than homes where they go for part time jobs or are unemployed. Moreover, early studies of adolescents (Gold and Andres, 1978b) consistently established that children of employed mothers were as confident in social settings as children whose mothers remained at home and were somewhat more sociable with peers. The present study was undertaken to compare the factors influencing the security-Insecurity feelings among adolescent girls.

OBJECTIVES

1. To compare the security- insecurity feeling of adolescent girls of working and non-working mothers.
2. To compare the security- insecurity feeling of adolescent girls of joint and nuclear families.
3. To compare the security- insecurity feeling of adolescent girls belonging to rural and urban areas.

HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference between adolescent girls of working and non- working mothers in regards to security- insecurity feeling.
2. There is no significant difference between adolescent girls of joint and nuclear families in regards to security- insecurity feeling.
3. There is no significant difference between adolescent girls belonging to rural and urban areas in regards to security- insecurity feeling.

METHODOLOGY

Sample of the study

Sample of the present study consisted of 100 adolescent female respondents, studying in Secondary Schools of District Sonapat, Haryana. Sample was selected from rural and urban areas (50 adolescent girls from rural and 50 adolescent girls from urban).. The sample was selected by using stratified

random sampling technique. The sample was stratified into two strata on the basis of mother’s employment; two strata on the basis of family systems and further into two strata on the basis of local.

Tools

Shah Security-Insecurity Scale Developed by Dr. Beena Shah. The scale consists of 75 positive and negative items covering 8 areas of security-insecurity.

Procedure

Descriptive survey method of research was employed for the present study.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The response received was analyzed through statistical applications using t-test for comparison of security- insecurity feeling of adolescent girls in the light of objectives.

Table 1:Shows the Mean, S.D. and t- ratio for testing the significant difference between adolescent girls of working and non-working mothers in regards to security- insecurity feeling.

Category	N	M	S.D	S.Ed.	t	Level of significance
Adolescent Girls of						0.05
Working Mothers	46	102.24	23.32	4.26	2.85	Significant
Non-Working Mothers	54	90.07	18.59			

Table 1 shows that there is significant differences between the adolescent girls of working and non-working mothers regarding security-insecurity feeling as the obtained t-values (2.85) is significant at 0.05 level of significance. The mean values of the girl students of working and non- working mothers on security- insecurity feeling are 102.24 and 90.07 respectively. It reveals that the girls of working mothers group is better in regards to security feeling. Hence the hypotheses first, i.e., “There is no significant difference between adolescent girls of working and non- working mothers in regards to security- insecurity feeling.” is rejected.

Table 2: Shows the Mean, S.D. and t- ratio for testing the significant difference between adolescent girls of joint and nuclear families in regards to security- insecurity feeling.

Category	N	M	S.D	S.Ed.	t	Level of significance
Adolescent Girls of						0.05
Joint Families	44	113.45	15.32	3.17	9.65	Significant
Nuclear Families	56	82.84	16.32			

From the table 2 it has evident that the Mean and SD scores of adolescent girls of joint families are 113.45 and 15.32 respectively. On the other hand Mean and SD scores of adolescents of nuclear families are 82.84 and 16.32 respectively. From the data and result it has seen that adolescent girls of joint families are having more security feeling than the adolescent girls of nuclear families. This means that adolescents belonging to nuclear families feel more insecure than those belonging to joint families. Hence the 2nd hypothesis i.e. “there is no significant difference between adolescent girls of joint and nuclear families in regards to security- insecurity feeling” has been rejected.

Table 3:Shows the Mean, S.D.and t- ratio for testing the significant difference between adolescent girls belonging to rural and urban areas in regards to security- insecurity feeling.

Category	N	M	S.D	S.Ed.	t	Level of significance
Adolescent Girls of						0.05
Rural Area	50	95.50	23.48	4.39	0.43	Not Significant
Urban Area	50	97.40	20.28			

Table-3 shows that there is no significant differences between adolescent girls belonging to rural and urban areas regarding security insecurity feeling as the obtained t-value- 0.43 is not significant at 0.05 level of significance. The mean values of the adolescent girls of rural and urban areas on security- insecurity feeling are 95.50 and 97.40 respectively. It reveals that adolescent girls of urban area possess more security feeling than rural girls but it is not significant. Hence the hypotheses, i.e., “There is no significant difference between adolescent girls belonging to rural and urban areas in regards to security- insecurity feeling.” is accepted.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The present study reveals that there is significant differences between the adolescent girls of working and non-working mothers regarding security-insecurity feeling. Adolescent girls of working mothers were found more secure than the girls of non-working mothers. This may be due to the fact that girls of working mothers may feel secured as the mothers are financially secured and are able to guide their girls in the similar direction.

Home environment plays important role in developing the personality of the child. In the present study, the adolescents belonging to nuclear families were found to have more insecurity than the adolescents of joint families. As the Mean scores of adolescent girls of joint and nuclear families are 113.45 and 82.84 respectively. From the data and result it can be concluded that adolescent girls of joint families are having more security feeling than the adolescent girls of nuclear families. The reason may be the number of family members to share their feelings of insecurity. One important reason may be in nuclear families, most of the parents are working and are not able to pay proper attention and time to their wards. The children of these families are left at the mercy of the servants or housekeepers.

No significant differences was found between adolescent girls belonging to rural and urban areas regarding security insecurity feeling. Result reveals that adolescent girls of urban area possess more security feeling than rural girls but the difference is not significant. Hence it can be concluded that the feeling of security-insecurity is affected by the type of families and the financial and social status of the mothers.

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