

Original Research Paper

Adolescents' Perception of Father's Nurturance and Its Relation with Self- Efficacy and Academic Motivation

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to examine the role of Adolescent's Perception of Father's Nurturance on Self- efficacy and Academic Motivation. It also aimed at exploring whether Adolescent Perception of Father's Nurturance differs in relation to type of family and religion. A total of 200 adolescents from North and South Goa (91 females and 109 males) between the ages of 16-18 years were selected for the purpose of the study. The Nurturant Fathering Scale (FNS) by Finley & Schwartz; The Self- Efficacy Questionnaire for Children (SEQ-C) by Muris and The Academic Motivation Scale for High School (AMS-HS-28) version by Vallerand et al were administered to obtain quantitative data on the variables. The data was analyzed with the help of z- test, Pearson Correlation and ANOVA. Results of the study revealed that there is a weak positive correlation between Adolescent's Perception of Father's Nurturance and Self-Efficacy and Academic Motivation. With respect to type of family, no difference was found in Adolescent Perception of Father's Nurturance. However, a significant difference in the same was found in relation to religion. Limitations of the study and implications for future research have been discussed.

Keywords: Father's Nurturance, Self-efficacy, Academic Motivation and Adolescents.

"What we become depends on what our fathers teach us at odd moments, when they aren't trying to teach us. We are formed by little scraps of wisdom"

-Umberto Eco

It is a well-known fact that parents play an important role in the lives of their children. While the word 'parenting' connotes a dual task of both father and mother, it has largely been attributed to the mother; the evidence of which lies in the enormous load of studies on the role of the mother in the life of the adolescent.

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The 21st century has heralded change not only in technology and globalisation but also in the role of parenting. While mothers undoubtedly play an important role in the lives of their adolescent offspring, the role of the father cannot be ignored. Fathers are more than just the 'second adult' at home. Fathers who are involved in their child's life brings benefits to their children that no other person is likely to bring. Research has demonstrated that Children with involved, caring fathers have better educational outcomes. They are more patient and can handle stress and frustration associated with schooling more readily than children whose fathers are less involved in their lives.

Fathers also play a critical role in the nurturing of their children by providing responsible and loving care that meets their emotional and social needs. It is also important for people to understand that the roles of fathers and mothers overlap but they are not identical. The influence of a father's involvement on academic achievement extends into Adolescence and young adulthood. The nurturing style of fathering is associated with better verbal skills, intellectual functioning, and academic achievement among adolescents.

Fathers also tend to promote independence and an orientation to the outside world. Fathers often push achievement while mothers stress nurturing, both of which are important to healthy development. As a result, children who grow up with involved fathers are more comfortable exploring the world around them and more likely to exhibit self-control and pro-social behavior.

When fathers understand how important their nurturance and role is in the lives of their adolescents, they would be in a better place to spend quality time with their children and boost their motivation to achieve their goals in life and perform better academically and also increase their levels of Self-efficacy. This study would be beneficial to counselors in educating parents especially fathers about how significant their role is in developing their adolescents levels of Self-efficacy and also increasing their adolescents academic performance. Counselors who face cases of Adolescents with low Self-efficacy and Academic Motivation can then help build the bond between fathers and adolescents.

Objectives

1. To study the relationship between the Adolescent's Perceptions of Father's Nurturance and Self-Efficacy.
2. To study the relationship between the Adolescent's Perceptions of Father's Nurturance and their Academic Motivation.
3. To study the difference in Adolescent's Perception of Father's Nurturance in relation to type of family and religion

Hypotheses

H_{a1} A Significant relationship exists between Adolescent Perception of Father's Nurturance and Self-Efficacy.

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- H_a2 A Significant relationship exists between Adolescent Perception of Father's Nurturance and Academic Motivation.
- H_a3 Significant difference exist in Adolescent Perception of Father's Nurturance in relation to the type of family.
- H_a4 Significant differences exist in Adolescent Perception of Father's Nurturance in relation to religion.

METHOD

Participants

The population in the study comprised of 200 (109 males and 91 females) adolescents from various higher secondary schools of Goa. The sample was selected from the two districts of Goa, namely, North Goa and South Goa. The age range of this study is from 16-18 years.

Tools/Measures

1. Nurturant Fathering Scale (FNS)

The Nurturant Fathering Scale (FNS) was developed by Finley & Schwartz in the year 2004. The Nurturant Fathering Scale consists of nine items, each rated on a 5-point scale that participants use to characterize their relationships with the father or father figure selected on the demographic form. Each item is rated on 5-point scale. The reliability and validity are very high. Cronbach alpha coefficients for scores on the Nurturant Fathering Scale have ranged between .88 and .90.

2. Self- Efficacy Questionnaire for Children (SEQ-C)

The Self- Efficacy Questionnaire for Children (SEQ-C) was developed by Peter Muris in the year 2001. The scale is recommended for Adolescents of age 14-18 years. It comprises of three subscales: Social Self-efficacy, Academic Self-efficacy and Emotional Self-efficacy. The reliability and validity are very high. Cronbach's alpha was found as .88 for total Self-efficacy scale and .85 to .88 for subscale scores.

3. Academic Motivation Scale (AMS-HS-28)

Academic Motivation Scale (AMS) was developed by Robert J. Vallerand, Luc G. Pelletier, Mare R. Blais, Nathalie M. Briere, Carolin Senecal, and Evelyne F. Vallieres in the year 1992-1993. The scale comprises of 28 items and seven subscales assessing three types of Intrinsic Motivation, three types of Extrinsic Motivation and Amotivation.

Academic Motivation Scale (AMS) has two versions 1) Academic Motivation Scale for College and 2) Academic Motivation Scale for High School. The Academic Motivation Scale for High School (AMS-HS-28) version has been used in the present study.

The Academic Motivation Scale has satisfactory level of internal consistency (mean alpha value= .81) and temporal stability over a month (mean test-retest correlation=.79).

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Data Collection and Processing

A total of 200 adolescents between the age ranges of 16-18 years were selected from 4 different Higher Secondary Schools from North and South Goa through the method of convenient sampling. Details pertaining to religion and type of family were obtained through the Personal Data Sheet which was provided along with the questionnaires. Questionnaires were scrutinized thoroughly by the researcher to ensure that all items were answered.

Statistical Analysis

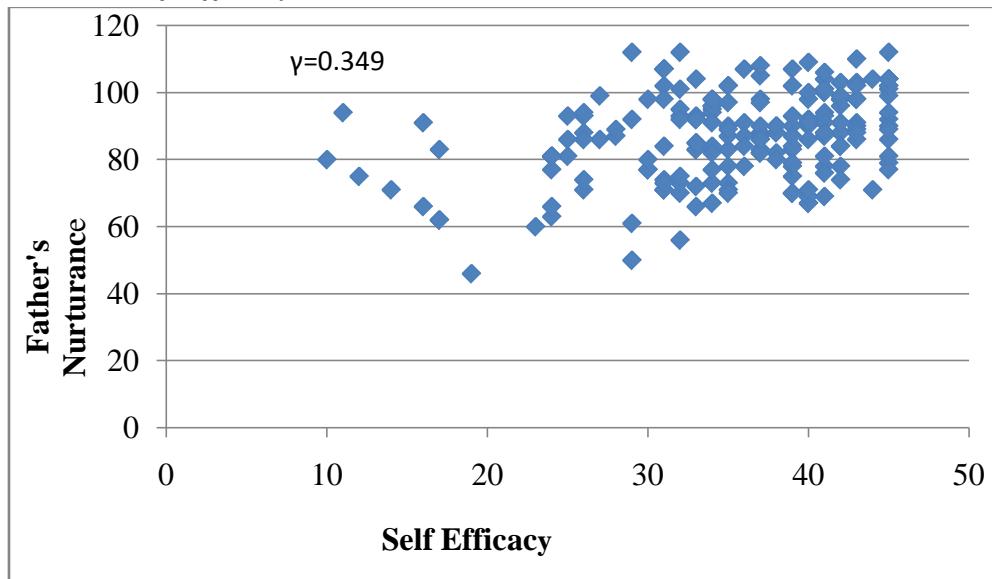
The collected data was classified, tabulated and statistically analyzed using SPSS 20. The tools used for statistical analyses were t-test and one way analysis of variance.

Descriptive statistics namely mean and standard deviation were used to analyze the results. Pearson product moment correlation was used to specify the relationship between the variables. The Z-test, one-way ANOVA and the Scheffé test were used to study whether there exists a difference in the level of a variable among the groups.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

H_a1 A Significant relationship exists between Adolescent Perception of Father's Nurturance and Self-Efficacy.

Figure 1 showing the relationship between an Adolescent's Perception of Father's Nurturance and Self-Efficacy.



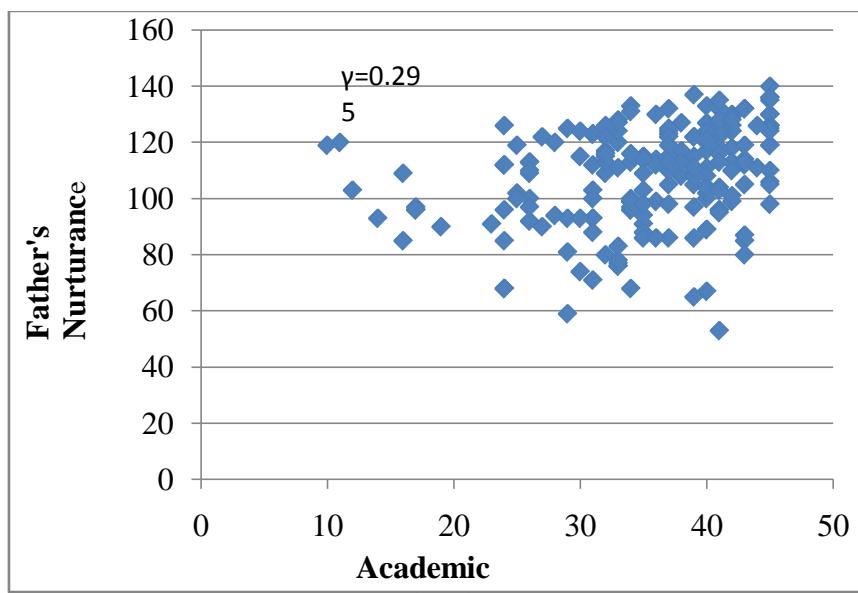
The Pearson product moment correlation coefficient obtained was 0.349 ($\gamma=0.349$) which indicates that there is a weak positive relationship between the Adolescent's perception of Father's Nurturance and their Self-Efficacy. Though the correlation is not to a significant degree, the results suggest that as Adolescents perception of Father's Nurturance increases, their Self-Efficacy increase.

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Much research has been conducted on the role of mothers in the lives of their adolescent children. The above findings could also be attributed to mother's still playing a significant role in the lives of their adolescent children as compared to fathers who most often tend to be the main bread-winners of the family and more focuses on career roles.

H_a2 A Significant relationship exists between Adolescent Perception of Father's Nurturance and Academic Motivation.

Figure 4.2 showing the relationship between Adolescent's Perception of Father's Nurturance and Academic Motivation.



The Pearson product moment correlation coefficient obtained was 0.295 ($\gamma=0.295$) which indicates that there is a weak positive relationship between the Adolescent's perception of Father's Nurturance and their Academic Motivation.

In today's world, though Adolescents perceive their fathers to be Nurturant, it is often mothers who show greater involvement in academic issues of the adolescent. It is also important to recognize that in the State of Goa many fathers are employed abroad or on the ship and therefore mothers are faced with the single role of motivating their adolescents academically.

A study conducted by Henderson and Berla (1994) and David (2012) also suggests that there exists a weak positive relationship between the Adolescent's perception of Father's Nurturance and their Academic Motivation.

H_a 3 Significant differences exist in Adolescent Perception of Father's Nurturance in relation to the type of family.

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Table 1 indicating Mean, Standard Deviation, and z value scores of Perceived Father's Nurturance of Adolescents relation to Type of Family

Type of Family	Mean	Std. Deviation	z value
Nuclear	35.25	7.35	
Joint	35.14	7.89	0.079

The above table shows that the mean of Perceived Father's Nurturance score of Adolescents living in nuclear families and joint families are 35.25 and 35 with a standard deviation of 7.35 and 7.89 respectively. The calculated z value was 0.079 and not found to be significant implying that Adolescent Perception of Father's Nurturance is not influenced by the type of family, joint or nuclear.

With respect to the above hypothesis, the researchers expected to find a significant difference, with fathers from nuclear families being more Nurturant in the perception of the adolescent, as they are the only ones who can provide the necessary nurturance to their adolescent children as compared to a joint family where this nurturance could be provided by other extended family members too. However, results revealed that whether the adolescent resides with many family members as in a joint family or in a nuclear set-up with their parents and siblings, their perception of Father's Nurturance does not differ significantly.

H_a 4 Significant differences exist in Adolescent Perception of Father's Nurturance in relation to religion.

Table 2 Indicating mean, standard deviation, and f ratio Adolescent Perception of Father's Nurturance in relation to religion.

Religion	Mean	Std. Deviation	F ratio
Hindu	37.03	5.3	3.48 **
Muslim	32.00	5.8	
Christian	34.93	5.6	

** Significant at 0.05 level

The above table values indicate that Hindu Adolescent's perceive their fathers to be more Nurturant followed by Christian and Muslim Adolescents. Through one-way ANOVA, the f-ratio obtained was 3.48 and found to be significant at 0.05 level.

The One Way ANOVA proved that there exists a significant difference in an Adolescent's Perception of Father's Nurturance in relation to religion. Hence, the data was further analyzed using the Post Hoc - Scheffé Test to find out between which two groups there existed a significant difference. The results of the Post Hoc revealed that there is a significant difference between the Hindu and Catholic Adolescent's Perception of Father's Nurturance, with Hindu Adolescent perceives their fathers to be more Nurturant.

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The above results could be due to Fathers of Hindu Adolescents residing with their family in the State of Goa as compared to families of Christian Adolescents whose fathers seek employment mainly abroad or on the ship

CONCLUSION, LIMITATIONS AND SCOPE

The present study aimed at exploring the role of Adolescent's Perception of Father's Nurturance on Self- efficacy and Academic Motivation in relation to Type of Family and Religion. Results of the study revealed there was a weak positive relationship between Adolescent's perception of father's nurturance and self-efficacy and academic motivation.

With respect to type of family, no significant difference was found in relation to Adolescent's perception of Father's Nurturance. However, a significant difference was found in Adolescent Perception of Father's Nurturance in relation to religion, with Hindu Adolescents perceiving their fathers to be more Nurturant followed by Christian and Muslim adolescents. The study has its limitations. The sample was selected on the basis of convenience due to restriction of time; language was a barrier in the research as some of the adolescents were not well-versed with the English language.

Future research could be conducted taking into account adolescents belonging to different socio-economic class. Variables of Father's Nurturance, Self- Efficacy and Academic Motivation could be studied in adolescents residing with single parent families (specifically the father). Researchers could also take into consideration developing scales that would include a wider range of adolescents preferably for the Indian setting.

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