Influence of Responsible Parenthood on School Going Dalit Adolescent’s Life Skills

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Abstract

Parents play a dynamic role in the development of child. They influence children in many ways. The proper role of parent is to provide encouragement, support and access to activities that enable the child to master key developmental tasks. Responsible parenthood includes responsibility of both the parents to take care of social, economic and physical development of child. In this article researcher intended to study the influence of responsible parenthood on school going Dalit adolescents’ life skills. A descriptive research design was used and the life skills and perceived level of responsibility of parents among the students were assessed with self prepared tools. It is concluded that parents are needed to frame their parenting and to improve their responsibility level with respect to the development of life skills among dalit children.

Keywords: Responsible parenthood, Dalit adolescents and Life skills.

Introduction

Adolescence is a unique period of human development, which is characterized by numerous changes i.e. biological and psychological changes. Being an adolescent can be tough, there are many difficult times and decisions an adolescent will face. These problems make Dalit adolescents to struggle a lot, because they face discrimination due to caste system. This leads them to have inferiority complex and other social and psychological problems. These children need help and guidance from school as well as from parents. Parents play a dynamic role in the development of child. Parents can prepare themselves and their child for a smoother transition from childhood to adulthood.

Dr. Diana Baumrinid's longitudinal research (1967-1971) threw light on the impact of four styles of parenting on the personality of growing children. She categorized parenting approaches into four types, such as democratic, authoritarian, permissive and dysfunctional. Permissive parent believe that they can correct the child by love without setting any limits, but authoritarian parents follow punitive approach.

Third style of parenting is dysfunctional style which gives the least priority to discipline the children or even get ignored while democratic parenting style is most appreciable style which follows two way communications. Parents respect and validate the feelings of children and avoid hunting them [1].

Life skills have been defined by WHO [2] as, “Abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life.” The WHO identified five basic areas of life skills. These are decision making and problem solving, creative thinking and critical thinking, communication and interpersonal skills, self awareness and empathy. To cope with the problems arise due to caste based discrimination and change of modern life, Dalit students need life skill education to deal with stress and frustration.
The term Dalit is popularly understood to be a Sanskrit term meaning “Crushed, oppressed, broken, [3]. Dalit is a designation for a group of people traditionally regarded as untouchable. Majority of Dalit adolescents have been traditionally, historically deprived of socioeconomic opportunities and educational rights. One out of every six Indian is dalit, yet due to their caste identity Dalits regularly face discrimination and violence which prevent them from dignity promised to all citizens of India, (National Campaign on Dalit human Rights). They are one of the marginalized groups in terms of social, economic and educational status. This makes them different from higher castes. Hence parenting also expected to have the influence of their social, economical and educational status on their children. In present paper the researchers intended to analyze the relationship between life skills and perceived level of responsibility of parents among Dalit adolescents.

**Literature Review**

Marsiglia, Walczyk, Buboltz and Griffith - Ross [4] studied on impact of parenting styles and locus of control on emerging adult's psychological success. The findings of the study revealed association between authoritative parenting and psychosocial success, maternal authoritative parenting and internal LOC and external LOC and maternal permissive and authoritarian P.S.

Shahla, Mansor, Rohani, Mariani [5] studied on relationship between parenting style and children’s behavior problems and found that authoritative parenting style with high responsiveness and high demanding in parenting behavior has shown to be directly related to less children’s internalizing and externalizing symptoms.

Swarnali and Aditi [6] studied on the effects of patterns of parenting on study habits of adolescents and found that there is a strong relationship between sagacious parenting and good study habits. In particular to inculcate good study habits parents need to be realistic about their expectation from their children as well as their own principles and actions in their daily lives.

P.V. Prajina [8] studied on parental influence on the life skills among tribal adolescents and found a significant correlation between parenting and life skills. Hence researcher concluded that parents are needed to frame their parenting pattern with respect to the development of life skills among children.

**Objectives of the Study**

- To study life skill knowledge among dalit adolescents.
- To study parenting perceived by dalit adolescents in terms of responsibility.
- To study relation between life skills and responsible parenthood.

**Methodology**

Descriptive research design was adopted for the study to describe relationship between responsible parenthood and life skills. 300 students from three high schools of Ujjain city were selected randomly. Students from class ninth and tenth were used as sample. They were administered a life skill questionnaire constructed by researcher and other self prepared questionnaire on responsible parenthood. Data was collected from all 300 students but data from 100 Dalit students were only subjected to the test of significance.

**Responsible Parenthood**

It refers to parents, who care for their existing children in a careful manner, meeting all the parental responsibilities [9].

**Dalit**

The “Word Dalit” particularly emphasizes the dehumanizing caste oppression that makes them out castes and untouchables, within the context of the Hindu caste system with its religio-social organizing principle of purity and pollution. (Zechot, Prabhakar,
Adolescents

For the purpose of this study a student boy or girls studying in high school in any recognized or private school is considered as adolescent.

Life Skills

According to WHO, life skills refers to “abilities for adoptive and positive behavior that enables an individual to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life.” (Vaidya Shipra, 2014)

Findings

The above diagram shows that majority of the Dalit adolescent’s life skills found low. 36% of the Dalit adolescents showed high life skills. The students belong to Dalit community showed low life skills compared to other communities viz. OBC & general.

Figure 1: Findings related with life skills among dalit adolescents

The above diagram explains the level of responsibility of parents perceived by respondents. In this study more than half of respondents (62) perceived that 40% responsibility is showed by their parents. 19 respondents perceived that 60% responsibility is showed by their parents, which is quite better than previous data. Only 10 respondents perceived high level of responsibility showed by their parents. About 9 respondents perceived low level of responsibility (20%) form their parents.

Figure 2: Findings related with the parenthood perceived by the dalit adolescents in terms of responsibility level

It is inferred from the above Table 1 shows that there is a .01 level significant positive relationship between the life skills and level of responsibility perceived by respondent i.e. responsible parenthood. This showed that there is significant influence of responsible parenthood on the life skills of Dalit adolescent.

Conclusion

The study explains that majority of Dalit adolescents have low life skills. It is also found that level of responsibility perceived by the respondents (62) is lower. Also there is significant relationship between responsible parenthood and life skills. Result of the research is supported by the view of Bornstein MH, Tamis -Lemonda C.S. [11] that children’s development of the cognitive and social skills needed for later success in school may be best supported by a parenting style known as responsive parenting.

Responsiveness is an aspect of supporting parenting described across different theories and research frameworks (E.g. attachment, socio-cultural) as playing an important role in providing a strong foundation for children to develop optimally. Study done by N. Esmaeili, F.Farrokhi, M. Nikakhlagh, Z. Yousefi [12] also suggested that in addition to parenting styles and religious adherence, other factors may also shape- the effective identity of the peer, socioeconomic status, personality and mutual influence of parent teenager on each other.
Parents can contribute a lot to develop life skills in their children. They can most effectively influence and teach their children by acting as their teacher and role model. The result put into evidence the complementary roles of families and schools to help and encourage the Dalit adolescent to develop life skills in a suitable environment [13-18].

References


