

Periodic Research

Problem Solving Ability of Adolescents in Relation to Gender and Parenting Styles



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Abstract

Problem Solving is that activity by means of which an individual tries to find the answer to a problem. Problem solving is an activity of both the problem solver and the task. Parenting is the style of child upbringing. It is responsibility of both mother and father, to prepare their children for society and also for culture. The objectives of the study were to study problem solving ability of male and female adolescents and its relation to parenting styles. The study was delimited to 500 students of Mohali district of Punjab. Problem Solving Ability tool was constructed and Parenting scale developed and standardized by Bharadwaj , Sharma and Garg (1998) was used by the investigator. Mean, Median, Mode, SD, t-value and coefficient of correlation was computed. No significant relationship was found between problem solving ability and Parenting style of adolescents

Keywords: Problem Solving Ability, Gender, Parenting Styles.

Introduction

India , has approximately 225 million adolescents in the age group of 10-19 years, the largest group of young people to make a shift to adulthood (NACO 2008). Each period of human development brings many new challenges, competency requirements and opportunities for overall growth among it. Adolescence period is a very important transitional period in the life as it presents many new challenges. Adolescents have to face many biological, educational, physical and social changes concurrently. Adolescents need to learn to deal with pubertal changes, emotional changes and the development of sexuality is of utmost importance (Bandura 2005). Adolescent period is a time of numerous developmental changes that are considered to be second only to infancy period in the intensity of changes that occur (Lerner and Villarruel, 1994). Adolescents undergo several developmental changes at different speed: need for independence from their parents; changes in sexuality; choice of career and job ; strengthening advanced cognitive capacities ; dealing with changing relations with their family and friends; taking in account their legal duties, developing their ethics, morals and identity (Cameron and Karabanow, 2003). Adolescence is often a stressful period during development because it involves a climatic transition from childhood dependency to adulthood independence and self-sufficiency (Smith, Cowie, & Blades, 1998).

Problem Solving Ability

Man enters in this world filled with his wishes, emotions and many others abilities which enable him to adapt with his environment. As he grows in a social environment, he acquires new drives, motives and goals which he constantly strives to achieve with his hard work. In this encounter with real life situation, he faces many problems (Gupta, 2013). Whenever he or she finds himself/herself in a situation in which he is prompted towards attainment of some goals but where his progress towards those goals is blocked by some difficulty or obstacle, he may be faced with a problem (Gupta, 2013). If a person doesn't know how to achieve his or her goal than it means he is facing with a difficult problem. Without goal there is no problem. In another words, the wish to fulfil a need to achieve a goal and the difficulties opposing these are the main conditions of a problem (Turer, 1992). Problem solving includes Accumulation of concepts and abilities to get over the amazing complete situations. Solving a problem requires to find solution to the problems. (Mayer and Wittrock, 1996).

A solution of the problem involves development of some type of responses, which will destroy the hurdles. Since annoyance is a natural outcome of failure to solve the problems of life, an individual is always motivated to solve them to minimise his anxiety and frustration. Thus, a large part of a human's life is spent in a struggle to find solution to human's

life is spent in a struggle to find solution to his problem. It is in this sense that he is always motivated to think towards some answers (Gupta 2013).

"Whenever there is a gap between where you are now and where you want to be, and you don't know how to cross that gap, you have a problem." (Hayes 1981)

The nature of problem solving differs from person to person. It varies with the difficulty of the problem and its relation to the ability of the learners. The animals can solve their problems by habitual behaviour or by using trial and error method. The animals also solve their problems by insight. In humans, reasoning is the most important way of problem solving (Gupta, 2013).

The Problem solving is one in which some initial information is given and some goal is more or less defined but the relationship between the given information and the goal, is not certain, the individual is confronted by external conditions in which an obstacle must be overcome to reach a goal (Dutt, 1987).

Problem Solving is that activity by means of which an individual tries to find the answer to a problem. Problem solving is an activity of both the problem solver and the task. It involves the application of principles and facts to explain and solve new phenomenon or predict consequences from known conditions. The process of problem solving requires prediction, analysis of facts and principles to develop cause-effect-relationship in physical phenomenon or in the environment (Dutt, 1987)

Parenting

'Parenting' may be defined as cautious activities carried out at safeguarding the survival and development of children. It derives from Latin verb 'parere'- 'to bring forth, develop or educate' (Hoffmann, 2002).

Parenting is the style of child upbringing. It is responsibility of both mother and father, to prepare their children for society and also for culture (Veenes, 1973) which provides ample opportunity to a child to find his roots, and a sense of belongingness (Sirohi and Chauhan, 1991) and it also serves as a useful agent of socialization. Individual experiences help in making the sense of self identity, self confident and may also lead him to notice, think and act in a self directed manner. So, it is clear that child's impression of parental behaviour and attitude towards himself can be of great importance in the act of behaviour. It can open new generation of research for deep analysis in the area of parent-child relationship.

Parenting is not only a single generic activity but it is made up of many elements involving each and every aspect of Child's functioning. Parents themselves do not make distinctions with regard to what they do at a given time and their activities continuously flow from one direction such as feeding, to another direction such as playing, and one activity almost fulfills more than one purpose (Hoghieghi and Long 2004).

Significance of the Study

Problem solving is the main element to succeed in the life of an individual. A better problem solver can adjust successfully in every part of life; professional, social or personal. Some persons can solve their problems in a better way, while others may

lack in this ability. A student with good problem solving ability will adjust in a better way in his class, home and society. A problem solving ability requires power of thinking and reasoning. These can be inculcated in a classroom by a dedicated teacher. There may be differences in the problem solving of boys and girls. In Indian society (which we can still call a male dominant society), parents give all the freedom to their male child. In spite of the claims of parents that they love their children equally, Male children get more love and benefits than the females. This may result in low problem solving ability in girls. Parenting styles play a crucial role in development of resilience among adolescents. A good home environment can lead to more resilient adolescents. Findings of the studies suggested that parents play an important role with their parenting styles in influencing their young adolescent's academic achievement even during a time of transition to higher education institutions (Turner, Chadler and Haffer 2009). Adolescents are the future of nation. Therefore there is an urgent need to study the problem solving ability of adolescents in relation to gender and parenting styles . In this study, the investigator wants to make an important contribution to the literature by demonstrating that Parenting styles made a significant effect on the problem solving ability of male and female adolescents.

Methodology of the Study

Descriptive method of research was done in the present study to study Problem solving ability of adolescents in relation to gender and parenting styles. Descriptive research involves surveys and fact-finding enquiries of different types. The major purpose of descriptive research is description and elaboration of the state of affairs as it exists at present.

Statement of the Problem

Problem Solving Ability Of Adolescents In Relation To Gender And Parenting Styles

Objectives of the Study

1. To study problem solving ability and parenting styles of adolescents.
2. To study difference in problem solving ability of male and female adolescents.
3. To study interaction between gender and parenting styles with regard to problem solving ability.

Hypotheses

Hypothesis-1: There will be no significant difference between Problem solving ability of male and female adolescents

Hypothesis-2: There will be no significant difference between the Problem Solving Ability of Urban and Rural adolescents

Hypothesis-3: There will be no significant difference between parenting styles of male and female adolescents

Hypothesis-4: There will be no significant difference between the parenting styles of Urban and Rural adolescents

Hypothesis-5: There will be significant relationship between Problem Solving Ability and Parenting Style

Delimitations of the Study

1. The study was conducted on the adolescents (16-19 age) only.

Periodic Research

- The study was confined to schools of Mohali district only.
- The study was delimited only to the variables under study.

Sample of the Study

The sample of the study include adolescents from Mohali district. A total of 300 adolescents was selected randomly both from government and private schools.

Tools Employed

- Problem Solving Ability test constructed by the investigator.
- Parenting scale developed and standardized by Bharadwaj, Sharma and Garg (1998) to be adapted by the investigator.

Statistical Analysis

Mean, Median, Mode, SD, t-value and coefficient of correlation was computed.

Analysis and Interpretation

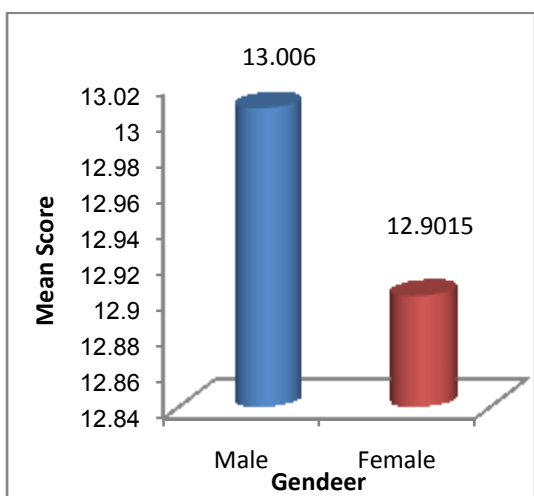
Hypothesis-1

There Will Be No Significant Difference Between Problem Solving Ability of Male and Female Adolescents

Table-1.1

Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
Male	168	13.0060	3.10012	.294ns
Female	132	12.9015	3.00092	

ns = Not Significant



Result of table 1.1 revealed that insignificant difference in the Problem Solving Ability of Male and female adolescents as t-ratio (t=.294) was found insignificant. In other words male and female adolescents are not differing in their Problem solving ability.

For Problem Solving Ability, mean scores and standard deviation for Male adolescents were 13.00 and 3.100 and mean scores and standard deviation for Female adolescents were 12.90 and 3.0 respectively. Where mean scores were compared it was found that Problem Solving Ability of Male adolescents are little more effective as compared to the Problem solving ability of female adolescents.

Therefore Hypothesis-1 that "There will be no significant difference between the Problem solving ability of male and female adolescents" is accepted.

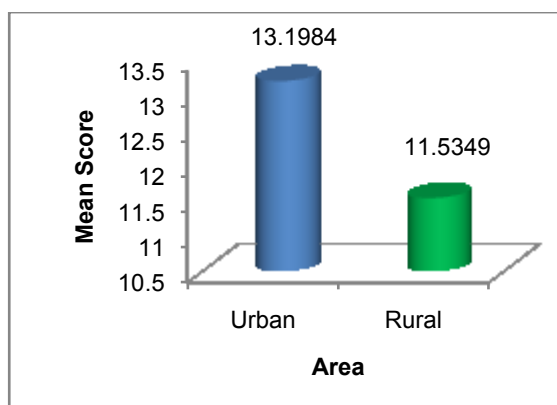
Hypothesis-2

There will be no significant difference between the Problem Solving Ability of Urban and Rural Adolescents

Table-1.2

Rural/Urban	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
Urban	257	13.1984	2.97442	3.365**
Rural	43	11.5349	3.15737	

** = Significant at 0.01 level



Result of table 1.2 revealed significant difference in the Problem Solving Ability of Urban and Rural adolescents as t-ratio (t=3.365) was found significant at .01 level. In other words urban and rural adolescents are differing in their Problem Solving Ability.

For Problem Solving Ability, mean scores and standard deviation for urban adolescents were 13.19 and 2.97 and mean scores and standard deviation for rural adolescents were 11.53 and 3.15 respectively. Where mean scores were compared it was found that Problem Solving Ability of Urban adolescents is better as compared to the Problem Solving Ability of rural adolescents.

Therefore Hypothesis-2 that "There will be no significant difference between the Problem Solving Ability of Urban and Rural adolescents" is not accepted.

Hypothesis-3

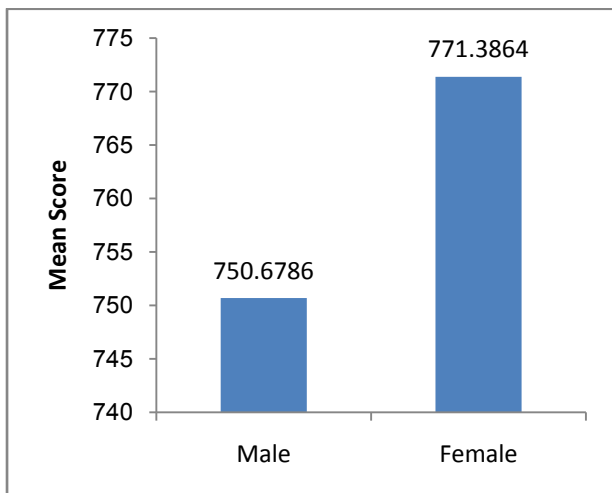
There Will Be No Significant Difference Between Parenting Style of Male and Female Adolescents

Table-1.3

Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-Value
Male	168	750.6786	70.96936	2.426*
Female	132	771.3864	76.35190	

*Significant at 0.05 level

Periodic Research



Result of table 1.3 revealed significant difference in the Parenting styles of Male and female adolescents as t-ratio ($t=2.426$) was found significant at .05 level. In other words male and female adolescents are differing in their parenting styles.

Where mean scores were compared it was found that Parenting styles of female are more effective (mean=771.38) as compared to the parenting style of male adolescents (mean = 750.67).

Therefore Hypothesis-3 that "There will be no significant difference between parenting style of male and female adolescents" is not accepted.

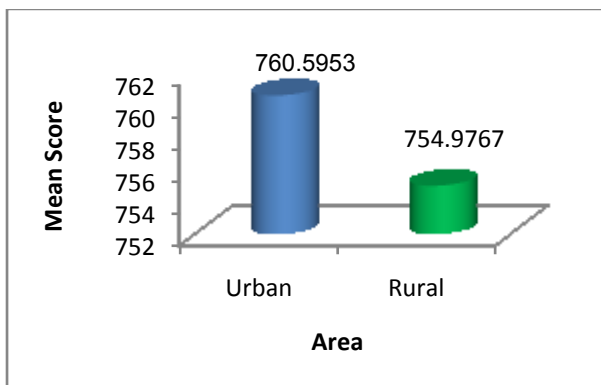
Hypothesis-4

There Will Be No Significant Difference Between the Parenting Styles of Urban and Rural Adolescents

Table-1.4

Rural/Urban	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
Urban	257	760.5953	75.22046	.460ns
Rural	43	754.9767	66.70064	

ns = not significant



Result of table 1.4 revealed insignificant difference in the Parenting styles of Urban and Rural adolescents as t-ratio ($t=0.46$) was found insignificant at .05 level. In other words urban and rural adolescents are not differing in their parenting styles.

For parenting styles, mean scores and standard deviation for urban adolescents were 760.59 and 75.22 and mean scores and standard deviation for rural adolescents were 754.97 and 66.70 respectively. Where mean scores were compared it was found that Parenting styles of Urban adolescents are little more effective (mean=760.59) as compared to the parenting style of rural adolescents (mean = 754.97).

Therefore Hypothesis-4 that "There will be no significant difference between the parenting styles of Urban and Rural adolescents" is accepted.

Hypothesis-5

There Will Be Significant Relationship Between Problem Solving Ability and Parenting Style

Table-1.5

Correlation between Problem Solving Ability and Parenting Styles

Problem solving ability and Parenting Styles	N	R
	300	-.073ns

Table-1.5 represents the details of correlation between Problem solving ability and Parenting style which is found insignificant as their Pearson correlation value was found -.073 which is insignificant. Therefore, Hypothesis-2.8, that "There will be significant relationship between Problem Solving Ability and Parenting style" was not accepted.

Findings

1. Results revealed that there is insignificant difference in the Problem Solving Ability of Male and female adolescents. In other words male and female adolescents' don't differ in their Problem solving ability. Where mean scores were compared it was found that Problem Solving Ability of Male adolescents are little more effective as compared to the Problem solving ability of female adolescents.
2. Significant difference in the Problem Solving Ability of Urban and Rural adolescents was found .In other words urban and rural adolescents are differing in their Problem Solving Ability. Where mean scores were compared it was found that Problem Solving Ability of Urban adolescents is better as compared to the Problem Solving Ability of rural adolescents.
3. Result revealed significant difference in the Parenting styles of Male and female adolescents In other words male and female adolescents are differing in their parenting styles. Where mean scores were compared it was found that Parenting styles of female are more effective as compared to the parenting style of male adolescents .
4. Result revealed insignificant difference in the Parenting styles of Urban and Rural adolescents In other words urban and rural adolescents are not differing in their parenting styles. Where mean scores were compared it was found that Parenting styles of Urban adolescents are little more effective as compared to the parenting style of rural adolescents .
5. Results revealed that no significant relationship was found between problem solving ability and Parenting style of adolescents.

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