

Awareness of Parents about Child Rights in context of their Parenting Style in Jammu City

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to assess the Child Rights Knowledge and Attitude among Parents in Jammu City. The sample consisted of 100 parents (50 fathers and 50 mothers) from urban areas of Jammu city. Random sampling technique was used to select the areas for the study and purposive sampling was used to select the parents in the age group of 25-45 years who had children in primary grades. The information was collected by interview schedule, Parenting Style Questionnaire and Child Rights Knowledge and Attitude Scale. Data was analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively by using statistical techniques like mean, standard deviation, t-test and chi-square test. The results of the study revealed that an equal proportion of both fathers and mothers were having high knowledge and attitude of child rights. The mean scores of fathers were higher than mothers on knowledge and attitude of child rights and also predict highly significant difference between them. Analysis of Parenting Style Questionnaire showed that majority of both fathers and mothers had high active scores followed by high permissive scores on parenting. The mean scores of both fathers and mothers were almost similar on active and permissive parenting style and insignificant difference was found between them. There is insignificant association between knowledge and parenting style and also attitude of child rights and parenting style.

Keywords

Child Rights, Parenting Style, Knowledge, Attitude, Parents and Jammu city.

Introduction

The child not only inherits but also transmits the human culture and civilization, human values and ethos. The child is the greatest human asset and most valuable wealth, which has to be nourished with all love and care and protected from all kinds of evils and exploitation, so the human beings will be happy and the world will prosper. Parenting style is a complex activity that includes much specific behavior that work individually and together to influence children out comes. Parenting style captures two important elements of parenting: Parental responsiveness and parental demandingness. Parenting is a very serious social phenomenon as it determines the future of the children.

The awareness towards the children right is important for the children for them to know the things that they deserve to get as children. According to the Convention on the Right of the Child, in participation right, the child have three rights, which is right of expression, association and a child's opinion. The most important components of the surroundings of the child comprise the family members – parents, siblings, other adults – and peers with whom he or she shares the family. Parents and other family members play a central, but not exclusive, role in shaping the lives of their children. Provision of child's needs is a responsibility of parents and the family. However, it is clear that many parents at some time require assistance or support to raise their children. Some parents often require detailed information, training and support to child rearing, in order that they may promote the children's physical and mental development and to prevent the occurrence of emotional and behavioral problems, youth crime, risky behavior, exploitation, discrimination and violence against other girls and boys. If the family and the parents are not capable of fulfilling the basic needs of the child, then the responsibility falls on the state. The state should extend support to such families through social support systems. With the declaration of child rights by United Nations every child is entitled to fulfillment of his/her needs as a Right. Therefore, it is important that parents and the members of the society should know the Rights of the Child, develop favorable attitudes towards Child Rights. Hence, the parent's knowledge and attitudes with regard to child needs and Rights has great influence on child's future. An attempt in this regard has been made to study the knowledge and attitude of child rights among the parents.

Objectives

- 1) To assess the knowledge and attitude regarding child rights among parents of Jammu city.
- 2) To study the parenting style of the sample parents.
- 3) To compare the knowledge and attitude levels of fathers and mothers towards child rights.
- 4) To study the association of child rights knowledge and attitude level of parents with their parenting style.

Methodology

Random sampling technique was used to select the various areas for the study from Jammu City. Purposive sampling was used to select 100 parents (50 fathers and 50 mothers) in the

age group of 25-45 years who had children in primary grades from urban areas of Jammu city. The information was collected by interview schedule, Parenting Style Questionnaire and Child Rights Knowledge and Child Rights Attitude Scale. Data was analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively by using statistical techniques like mean, standard deviation, t-test and chi-square test.

Results

Analysis of Child Rights Knowledge and Attitudes Scale

Knowledge is the information/content known to an individual on a given topic. Knowledge helps in understanding day to day experiences in life and taking appropriate decisions at the right time.

Table: 1. Level of Child Rights Knowledge among Parents

Levels	Fathers (N=50)	Mothers (N=50)	Total (N=100)
0-19 (Low)	1(2)	2(4)	3(3)
19-38 (High)	49(98)	48(97)	97(97)
TOTAL	50(100)	50(100)	100(100)

Table 1 shows that an equal proportion of both fathers 98% and mothers 96% were having high knowledge of child rights i.e. they were having knowledge regarding right to protection, development, participation and survival. Whereas, only 2% fathers and 4% mothers were observed at low knowledge of child rights.

Attitudes are formed over a period of time. Attitudes of individual affect the acceptance of knowledge and its practices. Hence it is important to study the attitude of parents towards Child Rights.

Table: 2. Level of Child Rights Attitude among Parents

Levels	Fathers (N=50)	Mothers (N=50)	Total (N=100)
20-40(Average)	24(48)	25(50)	49(49)
40-60 (High)	26(52)	25(50)	51(51)
Total	50(100)	50(100)	100(100)

Table 2 indicates that an equal proportion of both fathers 52% and mothers 50% were having high level of child rights attitude. However, 48% of fathers and 50% mothers had average level of attitude of child rights.

Table: 3. Mean, Standard Deviation and t-test on Knowledge and Attitude levels of fathers and mothers towards Child Rights

Fathers	Max.	Mean	S.D	t-value
Knowledge	38	31.48	4.66	47.60
Attitude	60	39.06	6.23	44.20
Mothers	Max	Mean	S.D	t-value
Knowledge	38	30.06	5.23	40.60
Attitude	60	37.60	7.11	37.30

**significant at 0.001 level

From table 3 it is depicted that mean score of fathers on child rights knowledge is higher (31.48 ± 4.66) than mothers (30.06 ± 5.23). There is highly significant difference between the knowledge of fathers and mothers on child rights. Table further reveals that mean scores of fathers is again higher (39.06 ± 6.23) than mothers (37.60 ± 7.11) on child rights attitude and there is highly significant difference on child rights attitude of both parents.

Analysis of Parenting Style Questionnaire

Table: 4. Parenting Styles of Parents

Parenting styles	Fathers (N=50)	Mothers (N=50)	Total (N=100)
High Active	38(76)	37(74)	75(75)
High Permissive	12(24)	13(26)	25(25)
Total	50(100)	50(100)	100(100)

Table 4 depicts that an equal proportion of both fathers (76%) and mothers (74%) were having high active scores on parenting. This signifies that the respondent's relationship with their child is probably already positive. Though problem certainly occurs, and atmosphere of mutual respect, trust and team work enables the respondent parents to handle them without the hurt or resentment, (24%) of fathers and (26%) of mothers were high permissive scores on parenting. This indicates that respondent's relationship with their child may be pretty good as long as they do what their child wants their relationship is characterized by service and pleasing but only in one direction.

Table: 5. Mean and t- scores of fathers and mothers on various parenting styles.

Parenting Style	Fathers		Mothers		t-value
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	
Active	41.56	4.01	41.40	4.02	7.42
Permissive	34.46	3.48	34.42	3.54	7.39

Insignificant at 0.001 level

Table 5 reveals that the mean scores of fathers is slightly higher than mothers on active parenting style and table further indicates that the t- scores shows insignificant difference between fathers and mothers on active parenting style. The mean score of fathers and mothers is same on permissive parenting styles and there is insignificant difference between fathers and mothers on parenting style at 0.001 level of significant.

Association of Child Rights Knowledge and Attitude of Parents with their Parenting Styles.

Table: 6. Association of Knowledge of child rights with parenting styles

Knowledge of child rights	Parenting Styles		Total
	Active	Permissive	
Low	1	2	3
High	74	23	97
Total	75	25	100

$$\chi^2 = 88.36, p\text{-value} = 0.06 \text{ insignificant}$$

Table 6 reveals that majority of parents having high knowledge of Child Rights were having active parenting style of parents. There is insignificant association between knowledge of child rights with parenting styles.

Table: 7. Association of Attitude of child rights with parenting styles

Attitude of child rights	Parenting Styles		Total
	Active	Permissive	
Average	36	12	48
High	39	13	52
Total	75	25	100

$$\chi^2 = 0.16, p\text{-value} = 0.69, \text{ insignificant}$$

Tables 7 depict that majority of parents having high attitude of Child Rights were having active parenting style of parents.

There is insignificant association between attitudes of child rights with parenting styles.

Discussion and Conclusion

Children are considered as a gift of god by all cultures around the world. India's commitment to the cause of children is as old as its civilization. It is the responsibility of all adults of government and of the International Community to create and maintain the circumstances in which families they can protect the Rights of the Child. If families fail their children, or if circumstances such as war or disaster or absolute poverty prevent families from protecting their children's rights, then governments and international community again have the responsibility of quickly rebuilding the essential physical and mental protection around the vulnerable years of childhood. (UNICEF, 1987)

High knowledge and attitude was found among both fathers and mothers on child rights. The mean scores of fathers were higher than mothers on knowledge and attitude of child rights and also predict highly significant difference between them. Similar results were observed by Abiola (2008) who revealed that parents showed high awareness of the rights of children especially in the area of health and education; however the child's right to freedom from discrimination is still an area that needs to be dealt with. Cherney (2010) also found that on an average, parents thought that their children would advocate for more rights than their children actually did, Mothers were more likely than fathers to believe that their child would advocate for self-determination rights. These results are also supported by Gourley (2009) who found that parents and children showed a high level of understanding in relation to survival, development and protection rights.

Analysis of parenting style questionnaire showed high active scores of both fathers and mothers followed by high permissive scores on parenting. Regarding active and permissive parenting styles both fathers and mothers mean scores were found similar and which ultimately showed insignificant difference. Similar findings were depicted in the study conducted by Winsler (2005) in which fathers and mothers perceived to be more authoritative, permissive and

less authoritarian. However insignificant differences were found between mothers and fathers. Dwairy *et al* (2006) also supported the results of present study that three combined parenting patterns: inconsistent (permissive and authoritarian), controlling (authoritarian and authoritative), and flexible (authoritative and permissive) across Arab societies and found that the mean score of the authoritarian style was higher among males; whereas the mean score of the authoritative style was higher among females.

The results also found that insignificant association between knowledge and attitude of child rights with parenting style. On contrary to the present findings Valliammal *et al* (2013) observed that positive correlation was found between knowledge and attitude scores of parent's regarding children's rights.

It is concluded that although parents were having high knowledge and attitude of child rights but they have no association with any of the parenting styles i.e. active or permissive of parents.

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