

A Study Of Relationship Between Parent-Child Relationship And Adolescents' Attitude Towards Drugs And Alcohol

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Abstract

Parent-child relationship influences the child's whole life. The child who gets a coherent relationship with his/her parents leads a positive life while the child who lacks this relationship finds his/her way in destructive activities. The present study aims to study the relationship between parent-child relationship and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. The objective of the present research work was to find the relationship of father-child relationship with adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol and to find the relationship of mother-child relationship with adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. Descriptive research method was used in this study. The present study employed a random sample of 200 adolescents of 10 private senior secondary schools of district Dehradun. Scale of Attitude towards Drug and Alcohol developed by Dr. Poorva Jain and Dr. Amit Deolia and Parent Child Relationship Scale developed by Nalini Rao were employed to collect data. Percentage and Pearson coefficient of correlation were used for the data analysis. It was found that most of the adolescents had positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol. Most of the adolescents received average symbolic punishment, rejection, object punishment, command and negation by their father and mother. Significant and positive relationship was found between father-child relationship and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. Same results were obtained in the case of the mother-child relationship. There has been found significant and positive relationship between father-child relationship and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

Keywords: Parent-Child Relationship, Adolescents and Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol.

Introduction

It is rightly said that home is the first school and parents are the first and best teachers of a child. The relationship which children cherish with their parents is the foundation of their lives. The relationship of a child with his parents is important in every stage of his life but it becomes more crucial and changes dramatically in the adolescence period. A good parent-child leads to development in all the spheres of life. **Longmore, Manning, & Giordano (2012)** states that close parent-child relationships are linked to the healthy development of adolescents. The children who enjoy close parent-child relationship get success in academic life and have higher level of happiness, self-esteem and are satisfied with life. On the other hand, the children who

lack good relationship with their parents have emotional distress, maladjustment, personality disintegration which sometimes leads them to the use of drugs and alcohol.

Drugs and alcohol use has become a trend among adolescents these days. They are attracted towards the use of drugs and alcohol at a very young stage, sometimes in the teen ages. It has become a major problem which results in poor physical and mental health. It has been found the alcohol use put a negative impact on the academic performance of the students (**Miller & Plant, 1999**). It increases the involvement of adolescents in the activities of fighting and getting injured (**Swahn, Simon, Hammig, & Guerrero 2004**). Alcohol use leads the adolescents to problems and risky behaviors (**Zufferey, Michaud, Jeannin, Berchtold, Chossis, Melle, & Carles, 2007**).

These negative consequences demand a barrier over the use of drugs and alcohol in the adolescence period. Parent-child relationship can act as a best source of this. **Vakalahi (2001) and Ryan, Jorm, & Lubman (2010)** showed that the parent-child relationship has a negative linear relationship with adolescent drinking habits. **Wood, Mitchell, Read & Brand (2004)** found that alcohol use was higher with teens whose parents were more permissive than those whose parents were more authoritative. **McBride, Freier, Hopkins, Babikian, Richardson, Helm, HoppMarshak, & Broward (2005) and Drapela & Mosher (2007)** revealed that a strong positive bond between the child and parent lessen the chance of the use of alcohol, cigarettes and other substances among adolescents. **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2009)** reported that close parent-child relationship is linked to safer sex behavior among adolescents and lower use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs.

The use of drugs and alcohol is seen in the adolescents of Dehradun also as it is center of Uttarakhand for being its capital. It is also an education hub where the adolescents from different areas of Uttarakhand as well as other states of India are getting education. Besides this, it is a modern and fashionable city. Influence by the irrational outlook about modernity, westernization and trends the adolescents are indulging in the habits of drugs and alcohol. To investigate the current situation about the attitude of adolescents towards drugs and alcohol and to find the effect of parent-child relationship on their attitude towards the use of drugs and alcohol, the investigator has taken the present study in hand.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to find the relationship of parents' relationship with adolescents' attitude towards drugs and attitude.

Objectives of the study

The researcher made following objectives to fulfill the purpose of the study:

1. To study the attitude of adolescents towards drugs and alcohol.
2. To study father-child relationship of the adolescents.
3. To study mother-child relationship of the adolescents.

4. To find the relationship between father-child relationship and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol.
5. To find the relationship between mother-child relationship and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

Hypotheses of the study

Following hypotheses have been formulated for the present study:

1. There is no significant relationship between father-child relationship and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol.
2. There is no significant relationship between mother-child relationship and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

Research Method

Descriptive research method has been used in the present study.

Sample and Sampling Procedure

The present study employed a random sample of 200 adolescents of 10 private senior secondary schools of district Dehradun.

Research Tools

Scale of Attitude towards Drug and Alcohol: The researcher employed Scale of Attitude towards Drug and Alcohol developed by Dr. Poorva Jain and Dr. Amit Deolia to measure adolescents' attitude towards drug and alcohol. This scale consists of 26 items, out of which 18 items are positive while 8 items are negative.

Parent Child Relationship Scale: The researcher used Parent Child Relationship Scale developed by Nalini Rao to measure relationship of adolescents with their parents. The scale consists of 100 statements, which are equally divided into ten dimensions. The scale has five positive dimensions as well as five negative dimensions. In the present study only five negative dimensions of parent-child relationship has been used, which are (a) symbolic punishment, (b) Rejecting, (c) Object punishment, (d) Demanding, (e) Neglecting.

Statistical Procedure

Percentage and Pearson coefficient of correlation were used for the data analysis.

Analysis and interpretation of data

Analysis and interpretation of the data is presented in the tabular form followed by the interpretation. Analysis and interpretation of the data is as follows:

Table 1: Attitude of adolescents towards drugs and alcohol

Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol	N	High Positive	Positive	Moderate	Negative	High Negative
	200	6.50%	77%	6%	6%	4.50%

The table no. 1 shows the attitude of adolescents towards drugs and alcohol. The above table indicates that 77%, 6.50%, 6%, 6% and 4.50% adolescents have positive, high positive, moderate, negative and high negative attitude towards drugs and alcohol respectively. It is also evident that most of the adolescents have positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol while least adolescents have high negative attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

Table 2: Father-child relationship of adolescents

Father-Child Relationship	N	High	Average	Low
Symbolic Punishment	200	5%	80%	15%
Rejecting	200	4.50%	81.50%	14%
Object Punishment	200	7.50%	84%	8.50%
Demanding	200	6.50%	79.50%	14%
Neglecting	200	5.50%	75%	19.50%

The table no. 2 shows the father-child relationship of adolescents. The above table shows that 80%, 15% and 5% adolescents receive average, low and high symbolic punishment by their father respectively. It is also evident that most of the adolescents receive average symbolic punishment by their father.

This table shows that 81.50%, 14% and 4.50% adolescents feel average, low and high rejected by their father respectively. It is also evident that most of the adolescents feel average rejected by their father.

It is clear from the above table that 84%, 8.50% and 7.50% adolescents get average, low and high object punishment by their father respectively. It is also clear that most of the adolescents get average object punishment by their father.

The above table shows that 79.50%, 14% and 6.50% adolescents feel average, low and high expression of authority and imperious command by their father respectively. It is also evident that most of the adolescents feel average expression of authority and imperious command by their father.

This table shows that 75%, 19.50% and 5.50% adolescents are average, low and high neglected by their father respectively. It is also clear that most of the adolescents are average neglected by their father.

Table 3: Mother-child relationship of adolescents

Mother-Child Relationship	N	High	Average	Low
Symbolic Punishment	200	9%	71%	20%
Rejecting	200	7.50%	78%	14.50%
Object Punishment	200	6%	79%	15%
Demanding	200	5.50%	81%	13.50%
Neglecting	200	5%	71.50%	23.50%

The table no. 3 shows the mother-child relationship of adolescents. The above table shows that 71%, 20% and 9% adolescents get average, low and high symbolic punishment by their mother respectively. It is clear that most of the adolescents get average symbolic punishment by their mother.

It is shown in the above table that 78%, 14.50% and 7.50% adolescents get average, low and high rejection by their mother respectively. It is clear that most of the adolescents get average rejection by their mother.

It is clear from the above table that 79%, 15% and 6% adolescents receive average, low and high object punishment by their mother respectively. It is found that most of the adolescents receive average object punishment by their mother.

The above table shows that 81%, 13.50% and 5.50% adolescents feel average, low and high expression of authority and command by their mother respectively. It is clear that most of the adolescents feel average expression of authority and command by their mother.

This table shows that 71.50%, 23.50% and 5% adolescents feel average, low and high neglected by their mother respectively. It is also clear that most of the adolescents are average neglected by their mother.

Table 4: Correlation between father-child relationship and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol

Correlation between Father-Child Relationship and Attitude towards	Variables	df	r-value	Results
	Symbolic Punishment	198	0.308	Significant at 0.01 Level
	Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol			
	Rejecting	198	0.203	Significant at 0.01 Level
	Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol			
	Object Punishment		0.207	

	Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol	198		Significant at 0.01 Level
	Demanding	198	0.185	Significant at 0.01 Level
	Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol			
	Neglecting	198	0.169	Significant at 0.05 Level
	Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol			

The table no 4 shows the r-values between different dimensions of father-child relationship and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. First obtained r-value between symbolic punishment and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol is 0.308, which has been found significant at 0.01 level of significance. It indicates a significant low positive correlation between the variables. It means that the adolescents who receive high symbolic punishment by their father are likely to have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

The second r-value between rejection and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol is 0.203, which has also been found significant at 0.01 level of significance. It shows a significant low positive correlation between the variables. It indicates that the adolescents who are highly rejected by their father are likely to have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

The third r-value between object punishment and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol is 0.207, which has also been found significant at 0.01 level of significance. It reveals a significant low positive correlation between the variables. It indicates that the adolescents who receive high object punishment by their father are likely to have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

The fourth r-value between demanding and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol is 0.185, which has been found significant at 0.01 level of significance. It shows a significant very low positive correlation between the variables. It means that the adolescents who feel high expression of authority and command by their father are likely to have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

The fifth r-value between neglecting and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol is 0.169, which has been found significant at 0.05 level of significance. It indicates a significant very low positive correlation between the variables. It shows that the adolescents who feel highly neglected by their father are likely to have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

Thus, the null hypothesis that "there is no significant relationship between father-child relationship and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol" is altogether rejected.

Table 5: Correlation between mother-child relationship and adolescents'

attitude towards drugs and alcohol

Correlation between Mother-Child Relationship and Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol	Variables	df	r-value	Results
	Symbolic Punishment	198	0.459	Significant at 0.01 Level
	Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol			
	Rejecting	198	0.214	Significant at 0.01 Level
	Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol			
	Object Punishment	198	0.221	Significant at 0.01 Level
	Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol			
	Demanding	198	0.235	Significant at 0.01 Level
	Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol			
	Neglecting	198	0.185	Significant at 0.01 Level
	Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol			

The table no 5 shows the r-values between different dimensions of mother-child relationship and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. First obtained r-value between symbolic punishment and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol is 0.459, which has been found significant at 0.01 level of significance. It indicates a significant moderate positive correlation between the variables. It means that the adolescents who receive high symbolic punishment by their mother are likely to have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

The second r-value between rejection and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol is 0.214, which has been found significant at 0.01 level of significance. It shows a significant low positive correlation between the variables. It indicates that the adolescents who are highly rejected by their mother are likely to have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

The third r-value between object punishment and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol is 0.221, which has also been found significant at 0.01 level of significance. It reveals a significant low positive correlation between the variables. It indicates that the adolescents who receive high object punishment by their mother are likely to have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

The fourth r-value between demanding and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol is 0.235, which has been found significant at 0.01 level of significance. It shows a significant low positive correlation between the variables. It means that the adolescents who feel high expression of authority and command by their mother are likely to have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

The fifth r-value between neglecting and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol is 0.185, which has been found significant at 0.01 level of significance. It indicates a significant very low positive correlation between the variables. It shows that the adolescents who feel highly neglected by their mother are likely to have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

Thus, the null hypothesis that "there is no significant relationship between mother-child relationship and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol" is altogether rejected.

Findings of the study

The findings of the study can be summarized as follows:

Most of the adolescents were found to have positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol while least adolescents were found to have high negative attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

It was found that most of the adolescents receive average symbolic punishment, rejection, object punishment, command and negation by their father while least adolescents receive high symbolic punishment, rejection, object punishment, command and negation by their father.

Similar findings have been obtained in the case of mother-child relationship. It was observed that most of the adolescents receive average symbolic punishment, rejection, object punishment, command and negation by their mother whereas least adolescents receive high symbolic punishment, rejection, object punishment, command and negation by their mother.

A significant low positive relationship has been found between symbolic punishment and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. Adolescents who face high temporary symbolic annoyance of their father have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

Significant low positive relationship has been found between rejection and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. Adolescents who face high rejection by their father have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

There has been found a significant low positive relationship between object punishment and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. Adolescents who receive high object punishment by their father have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

A significant very low positive relationship has been found between expression of authority and command of father over the child and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. Adolescents who face high expression of authority and command by their father have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

Significant very low positive relationship has been found between neglecting and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. Adolescents who face high negation of their father have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

A significant moderate positive relationship has been found between symbolic punishment and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. Adolescents who face high temporary symbolic annoyance of their mother have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

Significant low positive relationship has been found between rejection and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. Adolescents who face high rejection by their mother have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

There has been found a significant low positive relationship between object punishment and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. Adolescents who receive high object punishment by their mother have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

A significant low positive relationship has been found between expression of authority and command of mother over the child and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. Adolescents who face high expression of authority and command by their mother have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

Significant very low positive relationship has been found between neglecting and adolescents' attitude towards drugs and alcohol. Adolescents who face high negation of their mother have more positive attitude towards drugs and alcohol.

Implications of the Research Findings

The findings of the present study may save the future of the adolescents from the claws of drugs and alcohol. Parents should have an eye on those factors which may indulge their children in the habits of drugs and alcohol. They should know the friends along with their family background of their children. As a child is influenced by their parents, parents should be a role model for their kids. Parents should support their children and give them free space where they feel independent. They should pre-set limits for their children also. Parents should not allow their children to go to such parties where alcohol may be served. They should introduce various methods of fun without alcohol. Parents should have close connection with the school teachers of their children to know the school and social behaviour as well as company of their children. Last but not the least, the parents should love and respect their children but they should reject their unnecessary demands and should give them mild punishment where they feel necessity to protect their children from risky behaviours.

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