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**SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS ON ADOLESCENTS' PERSONALITY AND PARENT-ADOLESCENT RELATIONSHIP FROM FOUR DIFFERENT SOCIAL CLASS**

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**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study was carried out to socio-economic characteristics on the adolescents' personality and parent - adolescent relationship among families of G.B.P.U.A. &T., pantnagar from four different social classes. The sample for the present study comprised of randomly selected 160 respondents from four different social classes viz. Class I, class II, class III and class IV of G.B.P.U.A. &T., University. The sample consists of 160 students of 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> standard selected from the five schools of G.B.P.U.A.T families and this sample consists of 40 adolescents from each social class. Self designed socio-economic questionnaire was used to study the socio-economic characteristics of respondents. Percentage and frequency test was employed to find out the socio-economic characteristics on the adolescent's personality and parent-adolescent relationship among families of G.B.P.U.A. &T., pantnagar. Results revealed that four different classes were compared and it was observed that father's education of all the adolescents (100%) of class I and class II were post graduate and PhD but none of the adolescent of class IV has father's education up to post graduate or PhD. In class IV, a large no. of mothers (88%) was illiterate followed by the mothers of class III which was 32 percent. All the adolescents' (100%) of class I have their father's occupation as an Associate Professor but that was not in the case of class II and class III.

**Keywords-** socio-economic, adolescents' personality, parent- adolescent relationship, social class, parent's education, parent's occupation, parent's income

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**INTRODUCTION:**

The word adolescent has been taken from the Latin word "adolescere", which means "to grow" or "to grow to maturity". It is a time when children become psychologically, physically, emotionally and also socially matured. A major physical and psychological change occurs in an adolescent person's development as well as changes in their social interactions and relationships due to this challenging period. Adolescence is conceptualized as an alteration period, which begins with the onset of puberty and ends with the acceptance of adult roles and responsibilities. Of all life phases, except childhood, adolescence is the one most visible by rapid and potentially disorderly transition (Williams, Holmbeck, & Greenly, 2002). Adolescence is a developmental period characterized by various changes in almost every aspect of an individual's life, passion for new psychological adaptations. Adolescence has difficult stage in the process of development into adulthood. Socioeconomic status comes into views to be an important determinant of personality and wellbeing in parent adolescent relationship. It has been revealed that socioeconomic differences in well being vary according to age and stage of life. However, the evidence for a relationship between social class and psychological wellbeing in adolescents is not completely dependable. Some research reported more emotional problems in lower socioeconomic groups. Many socioeconomic factors as, interpersonal factors and family difficulties are known to increase the risk of disturbing and behavioral problems in adolescents. Socio-economic status also plays a significant role in parent -adolescent relationship.

Socio-economic condition appears to be an important determinant of personality and happiness in parent adolescent relationship. It has been shown that socio-economic differences in personality of adolescent psychological well being vary according to age and stage of life. Singh (1986)

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conducted a study on relationship between socio-economic status and awareness of parental behavior by students. Results indicated that a low socio-economic position was not found to be a good predictor of parental behavior. Many factors as socioeconomic status, interpersonal factors and family pressures are known to increase the risk of emotional and behavioral problems in adolescents. Unemployed or low income parents tend to see themselves as incapable because they cannot meet the desires of their children and family. Inadequate resources create conflict in the family. Such a state of relationships may influence the parent- adolescent relationship and subsequently the holistic development of adolescent. A family's socioeconomic status remains a topic of great interest to those who study children's development. This interest derives from believing that high socioeconomic status families afford their children place in order goods, parental actions services and social connection that many low socioeconomic status access to those same resources and experiences, thus putting them at risk for developmental problems (Linver *et al.*, 2004)

Lan (2004) examined the model of how parenting, adolescents', socioeconomic status, scholastic achievement, and adolescent's self-esteem might be related. To examine the proposed model is structurally invariant across grade and gender and also to determine whether family income, maternal education, and paternal and maternal occupational status make distinctive contributions to nurturing, adolescents' academic achievement, punitive parenting, and self-esteem. Results of the comprehension test showed that socioeconomic status had a positive effect and it was significant on nurturing parenting and on adolescents' educational achievement, which, in turn, affect adolescent confidence. Duhan *et al.* (2012) revealed that family's monthly income, a social class of the respondent's personality, educational level of parents was compared to the adolescent personality. On the basis of results, significant differences in adolescent's personality on the basis of assumed variables found. Furthermore, there were significant differences between found in, mental health maturity, self-sufficiency, self- control, tension level of adolescents from different casts. On the basis of parental education and family income differed significantly on their, guilt proneness, boldness, leadership, and mental health, maturity, and self- sufficiency self- control and tension level.

Above discussion clearly reflects that evaluation of the effect of socio-economic characteristics on adolescent's personality and parent-adolescent relationship among families of G.B.P.U.A. &T., pantnagar. However, the main interest in present study is to explore the evaluation of the effect of socio-economic characteristics on the adolescent's personality and parent- adolescent relationship among families of G.B.P.U.A.&T., pantnagar from four different social classes.

Thus, the present study has been taken up with objective:

- To explore socio-economic characteristics on adolescent's personality and parent-adolescent relationship among families of G.B.P.U.A. &T., pantnagar from four different social classes.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Locale**

The present study was carried out exclusively in the schools of G .B Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar and the list comprising of eight schools. The sample for the present study was preferred randomly from the five Schools running in the university, of G.B.P.U.A& T., Pantnagar. Name of the five schools viz; Campus School, Government Girls Inter College (GGIC), Pantnagar Inter College (PIC), Balnilyam Junior School, and Saraswati Shishu Mandir.

### **Sample**

As government and private schools selected for the present research and total 160 samples were chosen using simple random sampling technique and this sample consists of 40 adolescents from each social class. Respondents were studying in 7-9 standards of the selected from five schools running in the university G.B Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar. Schools

were listed and categorized under four groups on the basis of their family social class namely Class I, Class II, Class III, and Class IV.

## **RESEARCH TOOLS**

Self- structured Performa was employed to collect the socio-economic status of the respondents. The socio-economic questionnaire was prepared by the researchers consisting of data such as Parent's education, Parent's occupation and Parent's income.

## **DATA COLLECTION**

The investigators approached the school principals through a letter of request from the department which clarified the purpose of the study. After the permission for the study in the selected schools was granted by their respective principals, the investigators approached the respondents' groups in the school itself. Firstly the purpose of the study was made clear to them. After the selection of the eligible respondents, self-prepared background information Performa was administered to collect the detailed information about socio-economic status. The test was administered individually to all the respondents in classroom setting. After collection of data, answer sheets were scored and raw scores were calculated. Data was collected separately from each school. The data collected was classified and tabulated in accordance with the objectives to arrive at meaningful and relevant inferences. The data was analyzed using statistical techniques like frequency, percentage.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The present study was performed to evaluate the effect of socio-economic characteristics on adolescent's personality and parent -adolescent relationship among the families of G.B.P.U.A. &T., pantnagar.

Data presented in Table 1 shows that father's education of all the adolescents (100%) of class I and class II were post graduate and PhD but none of the adolescent of class IV has father's education up to post graduate or PhD. The majority of adolescents (68%) had father's education up to graduation in class III but in class IV father's education was not even up to graduation level. It was seen that most of the fathers were educated up to PhD.

In class IV, a large no. of mothers (88%) was illiterate followed by the mothers of class III which was 32 percent. But in class I and class II, the education of all the mothers was more than high school. The majority of mothers of class III were post graduates and PhD, but none of mother was holding PhD degree in class III and class IV. This is due to the fact that they are financially weak and do not get the family support to study. Collectively, it was found that most of the women were illiterate.

All the adolescents' (100%) of class I have their father's occupation as an Associate Professor but that was not in the case of class II and class III. The occupation of all the fathers of respondents in class III were technician and class fourth was labor. All the Respondents mothers of class III were non-working, 17% mothers in class I were Assistant Professor whereas none of the mother was Assistant Professor in class III and class IV. Very little percentage of mothers (5.0%) was found in class I who were either technician or clerk but no mother was found in class second, third and fourth to be technician. Mothers of class fourth only were found to be labors (17.50 %). The family environment can be a strong source of support for developing adolescents, providing close relationships, strong parenting skills, good communication, and modeling positive behaviors. It can also be a problematic environment when those supports are lacking, or when negative adult behaviors like smoking and heavy drinking are present. Where adolescent health is concerned, clearly the family matters, and parents matter. The result is in affability with the result of Panda and Jena (2000) who reported that parents' social class had a significant effect on the academic achievement of children. Krishnan (1977), reported that parental occupation had a significant effect on the school performance of the adolescent. Children from smaller income, less educated parent

and large families perform less well in school than those from higher income, better educated and small families. Predominantly, the educational level of parents predicts more of the variability in academic achievement than do other family demographic characteristics (Dornbusch, Ritter, Mont-Reynaud, & Chen, 1990). The socio-economic status of the family was positively and significantly related to academic achievement of students supporting to this result, Vijaylaxmi and Natesan (1992) reported that socio-economic status influenced academic achievement. Mathur and Hundal (1972) revealed that, positive correlation between academic achievement and economic status of parents. However, Sood (1990) reported that there was no significant relationship between academic achievement and socio-economic status.

### CONCLUSION:

It can be concluded that four different classes were compared and it was observed that father's education of all the adolescents (100%) of class I and class II were post graduate and PhD but none of the adolescent of class IV has father's education up to post graduate or PhD. In class IV, a large no. of mothers (88%) was illiterate followed by the mothers of class III which was 32 percent. All the adolescents' (100%) of class I have their father's occupation as an Associate Professor but that was not in the case of class II and class III.

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Table 1

FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ON SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Variables	Categories		Class I (n <sub>1</sub> =40)		Class II (n <sub>2</sub> =40)		Class III (n <sub>3</sub> =40)		Class IV (n <sub>4</sub> =40)		Total (n=160)	
			n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Father's Education	Illiterate		0	00.0	0	00.0	0	00.0	1	43.0	17	11.0
			0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
	Upto Primary		0	00.0	0	00.0	0	00.0	0	00.0	00	00.0
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Upto High school		0	00.0	0	00.0	0	00.0	1	27.5	11	7.00
			0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Upto Intermediate		0	00.0	0	00.0	1	27.0	1	30.0	23	14.0	
		0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	
Graduate		0	00.0	0	00.0	2	68.0	0	00.0	27	17.0	
		0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	
Post graduate and PhD		4	100.	4	100.	0	05.0	0	00.0	82	51.0	
		0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Mother's Education	Illiterate		0	00.0	0	00.0	1	32.0	3	88.0	48	30.0
			0	0	0	0	3	0	5	0	0	0
	Upto Primary		0	00.0	0	00.0	0	15.0	0	00.0	06	4.00
			0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
	Upto High school		0	00.0	0	00.0	1	28.0	0	05.0	13	08.0
			0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Upto Intermediate		0	02.5	0	10.0	0	20.0	0	05.0	15	09.0	
		1	0	4	0	8	0	2	0	0	0	
Graduate		1	43.0	1	30.0	0	05.0	0	2.00	32	20.0	
		7	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	
Post graduate and PHD		2	55.0	2	60.0	0	00.0	0	00.0	46	29.0	
		2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Father's Occupation	Teaching class	Professor/Associate Professor	4	100.	0	00.0	0	00.0	0	00.0	40	25.0
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non teaching	Assistant professor	0	00.0	4	100.	0	00.0	0	00.0	40	25.0
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Technician/clerk	0	00.0	0	00.0	4	100.	0	00.0	40	25.0	
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Labour	0	00.0	0	00.0	0	00.0	4	100.	40	25.0	
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Mother's Occupation	Nonworking		3	78.0	3	92.0	4	100.	3	82.5	14	88.0
			1	0	7	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
	Teaching class	Assistant professor/Teacher	0	17.0	0	8.00	0	00.0	0	00.0	10	6.00
			7	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non teaching	Technician/clerk	0	05.0	0	00.0	0	00.0	0	00.0	02	1.00
			2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Labour		0	00.0	0	00.0	0	00.0	0	17.5	07	5.00
			0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
Father's Income	Professor/Associate Professor	Rs 37000-67000	4	100.	0	00.0	0	00.0	0	00.0	40	25.0
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Assistant professor	Rs 15600-39100	0	00.0	4	100.	0	00.0	0	00.0	40	25.0
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Technician/clerk	Rs 9300-34800	0	00.0	0	00.0	4	100.	0	00.0	40	25.0
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Labour	Rs 5000-10,000	0	00.0	0	00.0	0	00.0	4	100.	40	25.0
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Mother's	Nonworking		3	78.0	3	92.0	4	100.	3	82.5	14	88.0

Income			1	0	7	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
	Assistant professor/Teacher	Rs 15600-39100	0 7	17.0 0	0 3	8.00	0 0	00.0 0	0 0	00.0 0	10	6.00
	Technician/clerk	Rs 9300-34800	0 2	05.0 0	0 0	00.0 0	0 0	00.0 0	0 0	00.0 0	02	1.00
	Labour	Rs 5000-10,000	0 0	00.0 0	0 0	00.0 0	0 0	00.0 0	0 7	17.5 0	07	5.00

