

Original Investigation

Socio-Emotional Development Among Adolescents Raised in Families With or Without Grandparents in Dharan, Nepal: A Comparative Study

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Socio-emotional development can be defined by convergence of social and emotional growth. Adolescence, transitional phase of growth and development between childhood and adulthood. Grandparents are often highly involved as secondary caregivers for their grandchildren and may influence children's psychological and physical health outcomes. **Materials and Methods:** A comparative cross-sectional study was conducted in a Dharan 17 and samples were selected using the purposive sampling method. A total of 156 adolescents (78 in each group) with an age range of 15 to 17 years were interviewed using the self-rated version of Strength and Difficulty Questionnaire (SDQ). Data was analyzed using SPSS version 11.6. Questions were in the Likert scale 0 (not true), 1 (somewhat true) and 2 (certainly true). Descriptive statistics were used to describe socio-demographic data. Pearson Chi-square test was used to compare the socio-emotional development among adolescents raised in families with or without grandparents and to find out the association between dependent and independent variables. **Results:** Pearson chi-square depicts significant difference in socio-emotional development raised in families with or without grandparents in Dharan 17 (p -value < 0.05). There was significant association of socio-development with Ethnicity, Per capita income and Occupational status of fathers. By observing the mean values of total difficulties SDQ score, mean for adolescents raised in families with grandparents was 1.33 and for adolescents raised in families without grandparents was 1.56 from which it is concluded that adolescents raised in families without grandparents had more difficulties in compare to adolescents raised in families with grandparents. **Conclusion:** In this study the findings revealed that adolescents raised in families with grandparents had better socio-emotional development as compare to the adolescents raised in families without grandparents

Keywords: Socio-emotional development, Grandparents, Adolescents



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INTRODUCTION

Socio-emotional development can be defined by convergence of social and emotional growth. This is broad field of development study because of how significantly through life, emotional reactions influence social behaviour and how social experiences affect emotional growth [1]. Adolescence, transitional phase of growth and development between childhood and adulthood. WHO defines an adolescent as any person between ages 10 -19 [2]. A number of writers have focused upon the role of grandparents as playmates for their grandchildren. A popular view of grandparents has been as historians: teaching values, ethnic heritage, and family traditions through the telling of stories [3]. For grandparents, relationships with grandchildren provide connection with a much younger generation and exposure to different ideas, which might otherwise be limited. For grandkids, grandparents can offer life wisdom that they can put into practice as they navigate young adulthood [4]. Grandparents are often highly involved as secondary caregivers for their grandchildren and may influence children's psychological and physical health outcomes [5]

.A large literature links nuclear family structure to child wellbeing and generally finds that children fare best in married two parent families [6]. The increasing occurrence of grandparents stepping into custodial caretaking roles for their grandchildren has drawn attention to the psychological consequences of the change in family structure for the children. These researchers have identified and described the relationship between the wellbeing of the child and the quality of the parent-child relationship. Research has also suggested that successful reconciliation and redefinition of family relationships can have positive, ramifications for the children [7].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study design and Setting

The research design selected for the study were comparative cross-sectional research design. Quantitative research approach was selected for study. The study was conducted in Ward No. 17 of Dharan sub-metropolitan

city of Sunsari, Nepal.

Participants, sample size and sampling technique

The target population of the study were adolescents of age group (15-17) years living inward number 17 of Dhahran. In this study, the sample size consists of 156(78 adolescents raised in families with grandparents and 78 in families without grandparents). The required adolescents were selected from ward no.17 of Dharan Metropolitan city using purposive sampling method. The participants were identified by door to door visit of each household. Those cases which meet inclusion criteria of study were enrolled into study sample

Data collection procedure

After the review of the thesis protocol by the Institutional review committee, BPKIHS and receiving ethical clearance. Permission was taken from health sector division under sub-metropolitan city Dharan and Head of department of respected faculties. Participants who fulfilled the inclusion criteria were explained about the procedure and purpose and requested to involve voluntarily. Informed written consent was taken from respondents. Each participant was interviewed by the researcher herself using the Performa in a separate area. Data collection was undertaken in a period of 5 weeks.

Description of the tool

Part I: Demographic Pro forma consist of questionnaire related to demographic variables as age, gender, educational status, religion, ethnicity, occupation, and duration of stay with grandparents, family income. Part II: In this study Socio-emotional development refers to question related to socio- emotional development of adolescents. The SDQ asks questions pertaining to 25 attributes divided into five subscales: emotional symptoms, conduct problems, hyperactivity/inattention, peer relationship problems, and pro-social behavior. The Total Difficulties (TD) score was calculated based on four sub-scales (except pro-social behavior) with a score range of 0 to 40 points. Scores were categorized as "Normal" 0-15, "Borderline" 16-19 and Abnormal 20-40. In this study we choose to use a cut off of 16 to indicate borderline.

Statistical analysis and data management

The collected data was edited and then entered in Microsoft Excel 2007. Statistical analysis will be done through SPSS 11.5 version. Descriptive statistics was calculated in frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation to describe the various socio- demographic variables. Inferential statistics Chi square was used to compare the association between the categorical variables. Pearson chi square was used to compare the socio-emotional development scores in between two groups. Probability of significance was set at 5% level.

Ethical Considerations

The ethical clearance was taken from the Institution review committee (IRC) of BPKIHS. Permission was taken from Head of department of Community Health Nursing B.P Koirala Institute of Health Science and Ward Chairman of Dharan 17. Purpose and need for the study was explained to the subjects. Informed written consent was taken from each participant. Participation was voluntarily taken after explaining the purpose of the study to the subjects. Confidentiality was maintained.

RESULTS

Table 1 illustrates that (46.2%) of respondents were from the age group 15 years and the least were from the age group 17 years. More than half of the respondents were male (53.8%) whereas female constituted (46.2%). Majority of the respondents were Hindus (75%), regarding ethnicity almost (40.4%) belonged to the Janjati followed by dalit 34.4 and least being madhesi with only (1.3%). More than half of the participants had secondary level education (58.3%) followed by lower secondary education (24.4), higher secondary education (11.5), primary education (5.1%) and least being illiterate. Regarding occupational status, around 1/3rd of the respondent's father were indulged in daily wages (34.6%) and majority of the respondents' mother were housewives (80.8%). Regarding economic class (31.5%) were below poverty line whereas (56.2%) of respondents were above poverty line. Around half of the respondents live most of the time with father and mother (44.2%), (5.1%) spent most of the time with grandparents and least being with grandfather only. Most of the respondents (17.9%) stayed with grandparents above 15 years.

Characteristics	Number(n)	Percentage
Age		
15	72	46.2
16	48	30.8
17	36	23.8
Mean=15.77 and SD= ±0.802		
Gender		
Male	84	53.8
Female	72	46.2
Religion		
Hindu	117	75
Muslims	3	1.9
Buddha	5	3.2
Christian	24	15.4
Others	7	4.5
Ethnicity		
Dalit	53	34.0
Janjati	63	40.4
Madhesi	2	1.3
Muslims	5	3.2
Brahmin/chhetri	8	5.1
Others	25	16.0
Educational status		
Illiterate	1	0.6
Primary education	8	5.1

Lower secondary education	38	24.4
Secondary education	91	58.3
Higher secondary education	18	11.5
Occupational status of Father		
Agriculture	23	14.7
Services	30	19.2
Business	24	15.4
Daily wages	54	34.6
Others	25	16.0
Occupational status of mother		
Housewife	126	80.8
Agriculture	7	4.5
Services	5	3.2
Business	8	5.1
Daily wages	3	1.9
Others	7	4.5
Economical class		
<1.90 USD	56	31.5
>1.90 USD	100	56.2
Whom do you live most of the time with		
Father and Mother	69	44.2
Mother Only	59	37.8
Father Only	5	3.2
Grandparents	8	5.1
Grandfather Only	1	0.6
Grandmother Only	14	9.0
Duration of stay with grandparents		
1-5(years)	11	7.1
6-10(years)	14	9.0
11-15(years)	25	16.0
Above15(years)	28	17.9

Figure 1 depicts, out of total respondents 156, some of adolescents had emotional problem (19.2%), 42.9% had conduct problem, few of adolescents were hyperactivity (9%), around half of the adolescents had peer problem (48.9%), around 1/3rd of adolescents are having difficulties and few of respondents (6.4%) had abnormal prosocial behaviour.

Table 2 depicts significance of SDQ scores among adolescents raised in families with or without grandparents. The above table revealed that SDQ score across the five domain i.e hyperactivity, peer problem and prosocial

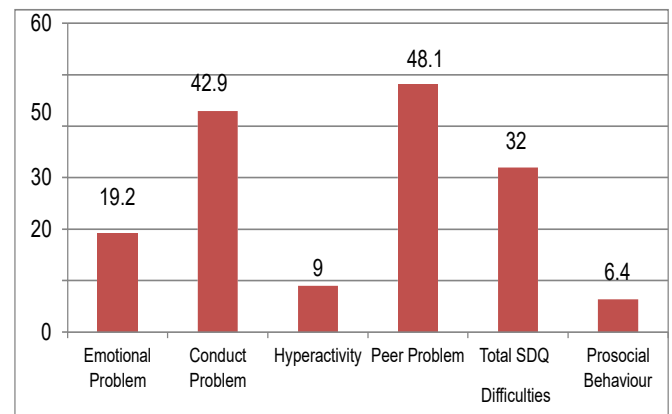


Figure 1|SDQ scores of the respondents

behaviour between adolescents raised in families with or without grandparents does not differ significantly ($p > 0.05$). Whereas, emotional problem, conduct problem, total difficulties SDQ scores between adolescents raised in families with or without grandparents differ significantly ($p < 0.05$). As socio-emotional development was measured by total difficulties SDQ score, it was concluded that there was significant difference in socio-emotional development among the adolescents raised in families with or without grandparents.

DISCUSSION

From the review of literature it is clear that there is a definite relationship between adolescent development and grandparental involvement. The present study is an effort to compare socio-emotional development among adolescents raised in families with or without grandparents and to find association with selected socio-demographic variables. These results showed that the adolescents raised in families with grandparents have better socio-emotional development than in compare to adolescents raised in families without grandparents.

The result of current study shows an association between ethnicity with the total strength and difficulties questionnaire score as socio-emotional development with the p value 0.00 for adolescents raised in families without grandparents which is similar to previous study done by Matthew G. Biel, MD, MSc, 1 Nicole F. Kahn where the total difficulties score differed significantly with the p value 0.004 [8].

The study designed to compare the behavioral problems among children from intact and single parent (mother-headed) families hypothesized that children from single parent families would exhibit more behavioral problems than children from intact families. It was also intended to study the gender as a moderator between family structure (intact/single) and behavioral problems of children. Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, the mean age of the participants was 15.77 ± 0.80 . This is similar to the Study of Kaitlin Grace Saxton, Duke University in which the mean age was 13.6 ± 0.88 [9].

By observing the mean values of total difficulties SDQ score, mean for adolescents raised in families with grandparents was 1.33 and for adolescents raised in families without grandparents was 1.56 from which it is concluded that adolescents raised in families without grandparents had more difficulties in compare to adolescents raised in families with grandparents. Therefore, it was concluded that adolescents raised in families with grandparents had

Table 2|Significance of SDQ scores among adolescents raised in families with or without grandparents (n=156)

Characteristics	Adolescents raised in families with grandparents	Adolescents raised in families without grandparents	Significance of score between two groups
Emotional Problem			0.04
Normal	70(44.9)	56(35.9)	
Abnormal	8(5.1)	22(14.1)	
Conduct Problem			0.035
Normal	51(32.7)	38(24.4)	
Abnormal	27(17.3)	40(25.6)	
Hyperactivity			0.575
Normal	70(44.9)	72(46.2)	
Abnormal	8(5.1)	6(3.8)	
Peer Problem			0.078
Normal	46(29.5)	35(22.4)	
Abnormal	32(20.5)	43(27.6)	
Total Difficulties SDQ Score			0.006
Normal	61(39.1)	45(28.8)	
Abnormal	17(10.9)	33(21.2)	
Prosocial Behaviour			0.050
Normal	76(48.3)	70(44.9)	
Abnormal	2(1.3)	8(5.1)	

*p-value based on Chi-square test, p<0.05 is considered as statistically significant

better socio-emotional development in compare to that adolescents raised in families without grandparents. The finding of current study was supported by the research of Mughera Sohail, and Syeda Shamama-tus- Sabah, Govt. College University, Lahore [10].

Result of present study rejected the hypothesis that there was no significant difference in socio-emotional development among the adolescents raised in families with or without grandparents .In this study socio-emotional development was significantly associated among the adolescents raised in families with or without grandparents(p value-0.006).Previous research of Mughera Sohail, and Syeda Shamama-tus-Sabah ,Govt. College

University, Lahore also support this finding as total SDQ score was significantly associated in intact families and single parent families(p- value <0.001).

CONCLUSION

This study concluded that adolescents raised in families with grandparents had better socio-emotional development as compare to the adolescents raised in families without grandparents. There was an association of total difficulties SDQ score with socio- demographic variables like ethnicity, per capita income and occupational status of father.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DECLARATIONS

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Data Availability: Data will be available upon request to corresponding authors after valid reason.

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