



Effect of Gender and Socio-Economic Status on Parents- Adolescent Relationship

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Abstract: Every child and their parent have a unique bond, which is implied by the term "parent-child relationship." This connection fosters the child's social, emotional, and psychological development. The present study assessed the effect of gender and socio-economic status on parents-adolescent relationships among adolescent boys and girls aged 13 to 18 years. A Descriptive research design was adopted for the present study, and a survey method was used to collect the data. Using a stratified random selection technique, a sample of 300 respondents, i.e., 150 boys and 150 girls, representing 50 from each of the lower, middle, and upper socio-economic groups, were selected. The socio-economic Status (S.E.S.) of the sample was ascertained using Kuppuswamy (1962) revised version, which was constructed by Gunuraj and Maheshwaran (2014), and Parenting Scale by Bharadwaj et al. (1998). The result revealed that all the respondents perceived a positive relationship with their parents, in which boys perceived a better parenting style than their girl counterparts. The study also revealed a significant difference concerning gender as well as socio-economic Status. Respondents from upper socio-economic groups had better relationships with their parents than their counterparts from middle and lower socio-economic groups.

Key Words: Perceived, Parents- Adolescent Relationship, Socio- economic Status

1. INTRODUCTION:

Parenting is a fluid notion that includes the subtleties of child-rearing actions and the emotional environment that parents create for their children. It is a crucial idea in developmental psychology because it is essential to a child's growth and development. The parent-child relationship is made up of a variety of behaviors, emotions, and expectations that are specific to each parent and each child. A parent-child relationship is a special connection between an adult and their child in which the adult assumes responsibility for attending to the needs of and guiding the child's development into maturity. Of all the relationships people build throughout their lives, the one between a parent and kids is one of the most vital since it affects a child's whole development. (Lal, K. 2013). The relationship between a parent and child is unique and fosters the growth of the child's body, mind, and social skills. A child has a better chance of developing a happy and content relationship with others in the future if they have a positive relationship with their parents today. The child can develop his abilities into appropriate channels and use his potential to maximize it in a healthy environment created by his loving and accepting relationship with his parents. Children with close relationships with their parents tend to exhibit social traits like leadership, optimism, and self-assurance. Children benefit from safe relationships because they foster positive social, cognitive, and motivational development that supports their growth and development. Teenagers' relationships with their parents and families vary as they go through puberty, yet they still require their support just as much as children do. For teenagers, authoritative parenting has been connected to favourable results, authoritarian and careless parenting is correlated to unfavorable results, and indulgent parenting is related to mixed results (Sahithya, et al., 2019). Adolescent children frequently want more autonomy and independence as they become physically grown up, and they may start challenging family norms, standards, and rules. Conflicts between the child and the adult family members result from these factors. Issues typically relate to looks, duties, and dating. Despite



these contentious issues, parents and teenagers tend to agree more on fundamental spirituality, politics, and education principles. Hence, teenagers who have and can maintain an honest, open-minded, adaptable, and emotionally supportive relationship with their parents can endure pressure from unfavourable sources. On the other hand, teenagers who have troubled relationships and poor communication with their parents tend to rely more on their friends for guidance and emotional support. Such Relationship - family and peer group behaviours may result in a variety of undesirable outcomes, including poor academic performance, strained relationships, use of alcohol and other drugs, as well as displaying unwelcome aggressive behaviours like rebelling against the educational system, school administrators, and parents. The parent's gender and socio-economic Status are fundamental factors shaping parent-adolescent involvement patterns. Hence the present study is designed with the following objectives-

- To find out the gender disparities in perceived parents-adolescent relationship across different socio-economic groups.
- To examine the effect of gender and socio-economic Status on the perceived parents-adolescent relationship.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS:

RESEARCH DESIGN:

A descriptive research design was used to conduct the research study.

SELECTION OF SAMPLE:

A total of 300 samples were chosen for the research study that was carried out. They were selected from the various schools and colleges in the Prayagraj District using stratified random sampling techniques. They were divided into two strata, each with 150 boys and 150 girls, and were further divided into three strata, each with 50 from the lower, middle, and upper socio-economic categories.

VARIABLES:

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE- Gender and Socio-Economic Status

DEPENDENT VARIABLE- Parents- Adolescent Relationship

TOOLS AND TEST:

- The socioeconomic Status of the samples was examined through Kuppaswamy's socioeconomic Status (1962) scale, which was amended by **Gunuraj and Maheshwaran (2014)**. The updated socioeconomic scale uses three factors to determine a person's socioeconomic Status: education, employment of the family head, and monthly family income.
- Parents -Adolescent relationship was determined using the Parenting scale, which was amended by **Bharadwaj et al. (1998)**. This test has 40 items that explored the eight parenting styles, of which 35 questions dealt with understanding the interaction between parents and children and five others dealt with relationships between spouses.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

TABLE-1

Significance of gender difference in Parent-Adolescent Relationship across Socio-economic Status

S.E.S.	Boys (n=150)		Girls (n=150)		t-cal	p-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Lower SES	39.50	4.50	31.42	5.90	7.6998**	0.0001
Middle SES	49.50	7.51	40.08	5.77	7.0333**	0.0001
Upper SES	56.66	3.84	50.20	5.12	7.1374**	0.0001



**** Highly Significant:**

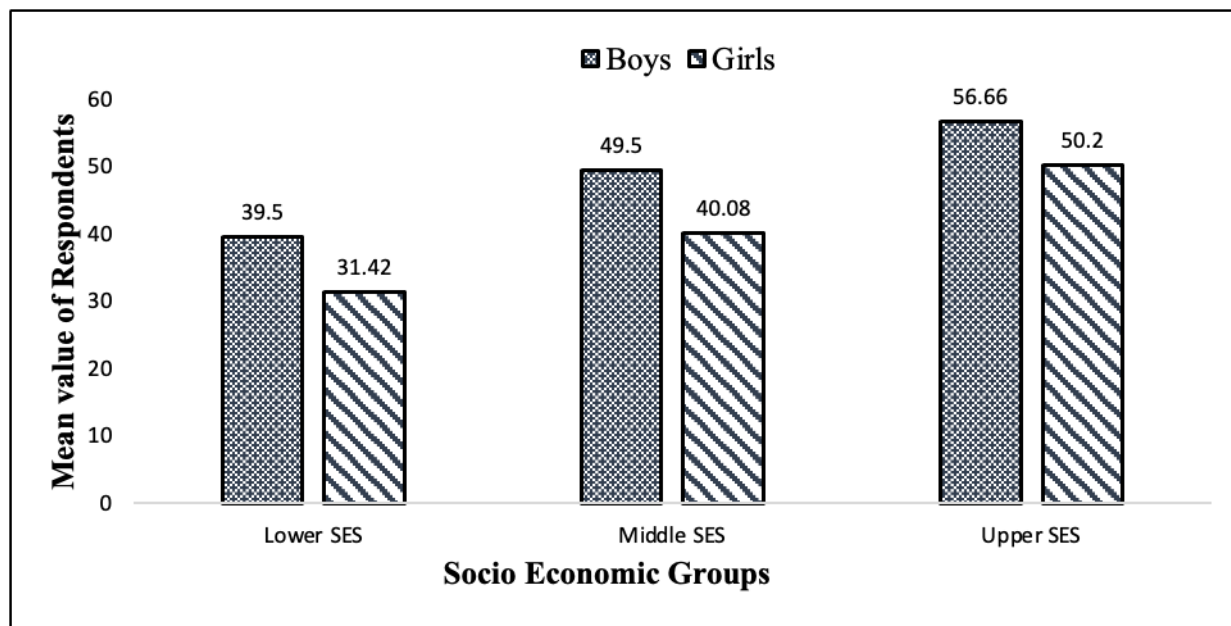


Figure 1: Perceived parenting Style boys and girls across three socio economic groups

Table and graph 1 reveal the significance of gender differences in Parent-Adolescent Relationships across socio-economic Status. Adolescents' perceptions of parenting styles varied significantly by gender among respondents from lower socioeconomic strata ($t = 7.69, p = 0.0001$); in this group, girls had more negative parenting styles than boys. Data depicted in the table also showed a highly significant gender variance among the boys and girls from the middle and upper socio-economic groups, where the t value was 7.03, 7.13, and the p -value was 0.0001, respectively. Mean values indicated that boys had perceived a positive parenting style as compared to their female counterparts. Relationships between parents and children are essential for children's development, particularly during adolescence. Due to the highly stressful circumstances brought on by financial difficulties and material deprivation, poverty can produce serious pressures on parent-child interactions, leading to poor psychological repercussions and family dysfunction. Unfortunately, these conditions prevail in lower-class families. A study conducted by **Shaban and Mattoo (2012)** investigated that there lies a highly significant difference between the application of symbolic punishment, rejecting and loving dimensions, and the gender of adolescents. Still, there was a non-significant difference between the protective dimension and the gender of the teenager. The research carried out by **Verma, V. et al. (2019)** study revealed that the mean score of boys was higher than girls; thus, boys were found to have significantly more conflict with their parents on issues related to communication than girls counterparts of upper, middle and lower socio-economic groups.

TABLE-2

ANOVA for Gender and Socio-economic Differences with Regard to Parent-Adolescent Relationship

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	F-tab (5%)
Gender	4784.013	1	4784.013	154.59**	3.89
SES	16153.980	2	8076.990	261.00**	3.04
Interaction (Gender × SES)	109.847	2	54.923	1.775NS	3.04
Error	9098.080	294	30.946		

****= Significant at .01; *= significant at .05; NS= Not Significant.**

Table 2 shows the F-value for gender and socio-economic differences as well as the interaction of both. For gender variable, the table shows a significant difference between boys and girls with regard to the parent-adolescent relationship, as the obtained F-value was 154.59, which is greater than the tabulated value at a 1 per cent level of



significance. Furthermore, on the basis of socioeconomic Status, the F-value was 261.00, which is also significant at a .01-level. But the interaction of gender and socio-economic Status was not significant. Thus, it can be concluded in light of the obtained findings that socioeconomic Status and gender significantly influence the parent-adolescent relationship among adolescents. Nowadays, parents provide for their children's wants and needs, encourage affection and care, spend appropriate attention on them, listen intently to their kids' words to understand them better and employ positive disciplining methods. Effective parenting promotes psychological adjustment, supports teenage academic success, fosters worldly curiosity, and inspires children to accomplish. The results are in accordance with the study conducted by **Malakar, P. (2021)**, who found that there was a significant impact of socio-economic Status and parent-child relationship on the children's problem behaviour.

TABLE-3

Critical difference and mean values among different socio-economic groups with regard to perceived parenting style

	Lower SES = 35.46	Middle SES = 44.79	Critical Difference (5%)
Upper SES = 53.43	17.16*	7.16*	1.93
Middle SES = 44.79	10.00*	-	

* Significant

The ANOVA table 3 depicts a significant variance in perceived parenting style by adolescents across different socio-economic groups; hence the value of critical difference was also calculated, which was obtained as 1.93. Findings indicate a significant critical difference in perceived parenting style among the three socio-economic groups. The respondents from upper socio-economic groups had the highest mean value of perceived parenting style, followed by respondents from the middle and lower economic groups. The study conducted by (Bradley *et al.*, 2001) examined that S.E.S. affects academic performance and cognitive development via several home environment factors, including parental educational aspirations, parenting ideologies and practices, and parent-child relationships.

4. CONCLUSION:

From the current investigation, it can be inferred that there lies a highly significant gender difference among boys and girls from different socioeconomic strata (lower, middle, and upper) concerning with parents- adolescent relationships. The study also revealed that respondents from lower socio-economic groups had perceived negative parenting styles compared to their counterparts from middle and upper socio-economic groups, in which boys perceived a positive relationship with their parents as compared to girls. Gender and socio-economic status influence parents' relationships among adolescents. Poor parenting style is prevalent in low socio-economic families compared to those in middle and upper socio-economic families.

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