

A Comparative Study of Bal/Balika Ashram and Parent Home Adolescents on Social Adjustment

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Abstract: *The present study was carried out to compare bal/balika ashram and parent home adolescent students on social adjustment. A sample of 360 (90 male and 90 female from bal/balika ashram and 90 male and 90 female from parent home adolescent students) were selected randomly for the present study. The result of the study reveals that there is statistically significant difference in the social adjustment of bal/balika ashram and parent home adolescent students.*

Keywords: Bal/Balika Ashram, Parent Home, Adolescents, Adjustment, Social Adjustment

1. Introduction

A child gets all opportunities in a parental home to develop physically, mentally and culturally and fulfill his economic, social, religious and educational needs. He participates in the social, religious and other activities of the family resulting in the cultivation of quality namely cooperation, good will, sacrifice etc. The interaction and emotional relationship between child and parents shapes his expectancies and responses in the subsequent social relationships. In addition to this the beliefs, values and attitudes of the societies are filtered through the parents and transmitted to the child in a highly personalized selective fission. But every child is not so fortunate to have parents. Some of the children lose their parents during their early years and are faced with the problems of their guardianship care and upbringing. They do not get parental care, love and wholesome family environment. They start and continue life with great social disadvantage. Being deprived of parental care and familial protection, all such children are kept in destitute homes/bal/balika ashrams and suffer from environmental deficiencies in many ways.

Destitute Homes/Bal/ Balika Ashrams

Destitute homes are institutions run by government or voluntary organizations where orphans, destitute children or homeless children are kept. They are given shelter, food, clothing and education by the institution. Steps for their rehabilitation are also taken by these institutions. These homes are also called bal/balika ashrams.

2. Problems and Adjustment of Destitute Children

The deprived child is an ill person with a past history of traumatic experience and a personal way of coping with the anxieties aroused. The child in the destitute home is not being managed with the aims of curing him of his illness. The aims are, first, to provide housing, food and clothing for children who are neglected, second to device a type of management in which the children live in a state of order rather than chaos, and third, to keep as many of the children as possible from a clash with society until they must be a let loose on the world somewhere about the age of 16. Due to all these problems and complicity destitute home children

find it difficult to adjust with others within the institution and outside the institute in schools, society and public places. They have to make adjustments with numerous other children of different habits, styles and temperaments so they have to suffer from various adjustment problems.

3. Concept of Adjustment

Adjustment is a continuous process by which a person varies his behaviour to produce a more harmonious relationship between himself and his environment. Adjustment is a process that leads to a happy and contented life. Adjustment gives the strength and ability to bring desirable change in the condition of the environment. There is a continuous interaction going on between an individual and his environment. If this interaction is profitable to the society and good for an individual, it is known as adjustment and if the individual has the courage to attain the goal, it is known as adjusted. A compromise between the needs of the individual and the demands of the society in which he lives is called adjustment. A well adjusted person is one who is efficient and happy in a reasonable satisfactory environment. The maladjustment refers to disharmony between the person and his environment. The behaviour of a person is purposeful which is directed towards the goal or satisfaction of some needs. It is the adjustment, which satisfies a person's feeling or needs. An individual is adjusted to the extent to which there is harmony among his needs. Goals leading to the fulfillment of these needs are attainable and these goals are socially desirable. Adjustment is to achieve mental or behaviour balance between one's need and the demand of the other as a result of which the individual is put to more satisfactory state. A good adjustment is one, which is both realistic and satisfying. Adjustment helps us to keep balance between one's need and capacity to meet these needs. Adjustment gives us the ability and strength to bring desirable changes in the state of our environment.

4. Significance of the Study

The process of adjustment starts right from the birth of the child and continues till his death. Individual has to adjust to various physical, social, emotional and vocational situation. Adjustment is not only the problem of all societies. In a country like India where a considerable number of population is living below the poverty line, children from

this strata has to force environmental deficiencies in many ways, so they differ from various adjustment problems. The children living in a destitute homes is even more sympathetic and pitiable being deprived of parental care and familial protection such children get user opportunities for interactions with physical world and social world outside their immediate neighborhood. So they develop several adjustment problems. For the proper guidance to the children of destitute homes proper demotion is needed. Only the teachers and their caretakers can provide right type of education and make them aware of the problems of adjustment. This study will definitely help the children for proper adjustment. Hence the present study is a humble attempt in this direction. The findings of this study will be useful for destitute children in solving their social and emotional adjustment problems.

5. Review of Related Literature

Bowlby (1957) found that in the absence of warm parental love, children face considerable problems of adjustment, which may be manifested in terms of dependence, lack of initiative and responsibility.

Brown et al (1967) found that the family relationship characterized by warmth, mutual respect and affection were associated with the development of good psychological adjustment in children.

Garhok, R.K(1973) conducted an investigation into the personality characteristics of orphans and found that the personality make up of the orphans as a group was different from that of the non-orphans. The orphan seemed to have acquired a feeling to hostility towards authority and society, home, social and health adjustment were unsatisfactory among orphans.

Sheikh (1978) indicated that orphans differ in their intellectual level in comparison with non-orphans and non-orphans were found to be better adjustment than the orphans.

Sunita (1986) found that girls were better adjusted at home than boys. Boys were more socially and emotionally adjusted than girls.

Dutta et al. (1998) reported that no significant difference exists between boys and girls in the areas of social adjustment whereas, on the emotional component of adjustment.

Saraswati et.al. (2007) The results revealed that majority of the institutional children had unsatisfactory social, emotional and educational adjustment and very few of them had good adjustment. Further, their age and academic performance had significant influence on adjustment of them. The adjustment of different types of abused children and their different periods of stay in the institution did not differ significantly.

Hunshal et.al (2008) were of the opinion that the prevalence and levels of health problems among children under institutional care has been researched by many and they have found that these children do display poorer health when

compared to others living with their families and within the wider community setup. Such children show poor adjustment levels high emotional problems, difficulty in social interactions and many other indicators of maladjustment and poor well being.

Deepshikha et.al (2011) examined the role of family environment on socio-emotional adjustment of adolescent girls and found that all the eight family environment factors, viz. cohesion, expressiveness conflict, acceptance and caring, independence, active-recreational orientation, organization and control together showed significant role in socio-emotional and educational adjustment of adolescent girls

Operational Definitions of the Terms Used

- 1) **Bal/Balika Ashram Children or Destitute Children:** Children who are parentally, socially, economically and culturally deprived and living in destitute homes or bal/balika ashrams are called destitute children.
- 2) **Parental Home Children:** The children who live with their parents and family.
- 3) **Adolescents:** Children between the age group of 12-19 years are called adolescents.
- 4) **Adjustment:** It is a continuous process by which a person varies his behaviour to produce a more harmonious relationship between himself and his environment.
- 5) **Social adjustment:** It refers to a process of interaction between the needs of a person and demands of the social environment in any given situation, so that they can maintain and adapt a desired relationship with environment.
- 6) **Emotional Adjustment:** A person is emotionally adjusted if he expresses proper emotion in a proper situation in a proper form.

6. Objectives of the Study

To study the main and interactional effects of gender and inhabitation of adolescent students on social adjustment

Hypothesis of the Study

There will be significant main and interactional effects of gender and inhabitation of adolescent students on social adjustment.

Sample of the Study

A sample of 360 adolescents (90 male and 90 female from bal/balika ashram and 90 male and 90 female from parent home adolescent students) were selected randomly from the state of Himachal Pradesh for the present study.

Tool Used

The investigator used R.K. Ojha's Adjustment inventory for the present study.

7. Analysis and Interpretation

Comparison of Bal/Balika Ashram and Parent Home Adolescents on Social Adjustment

The mean scores of adolescent students on social adjustment at various levels in 2x2 factorial design involving two levels of gender i.e. male and female and two levels of inhabitanace i.e. bal/balika ashram and parental home are given in Table 1. The mean scores of adolescent students on social adjustment at various levels in 2x2 factorial design involving two levels of gender i.e. male and female and two levels of inhabitanace i.e. bal/balika ashram and parental home are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Means (M) at Various Levels for Social Adjustment

A (Gender)	B (Inhabitanace)		Mean
	B ₁ (Bal/Balika Ashram)	B ₂ (Parental Home)	
A ₁ (Male)	10.04	9.10	9.57
A ₂ (Female)	10.13	9.79	9.96
Mean	10.09	9.45	

The summary of results of analysis of variance for the main and interactional effects of A (gender) and B (inhabitanace) on social adjustment is given in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of Results of Analysis of Variance for Social Adjustment

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F
A	13.61	1	13.61	1.57
B	37.38	1	37.38	4.31*
AxB	8.1	1	8.1	0.93
Within	3087.31	356	8.67	
Total	3146.4	359		

*Significant at 0.05 level of confidence

8. Main Effects

A (Gender)

From Table 2, it can be seen that the value of F for the main effect of A (gender) on social adjustment is 1.57 which is not significant at 0.05 level of confidence for 1/356 df. In the light of this, the hypothesis stated as "Gender of adolescent students will have significant effect on social adjustment", was rejected. Hence, it can be interpreted that gender of adolescent students, irrespective of the levels of inhabitanace, does not have significant effect on social adjustment.

B (Inhabitanace)

Table 2 indicates that the obtained F value for the main effect of B (inhabitanace) on social adjustment is 4.31 which is significant at 0.05 level of confidence for 1/356 df. Hence, the hypothesis stated as "Inhabitanace of adolescent students will have significant effect on social adjustment", was retained. It means, both the comparative groups (bal/balika ashram and parental home adolescent students) differ significantly from each other on social adjustment.

From Table 1, it is evident that the mean score for the bal/balika ashram adolescent students on social adjustment is 10.09 whereas for parental home adolescent students is 9.45. The B (inhabitanace) mean square corresponds to a

comparison between the means of bal/balika ashram and parental home adolescent students. The significant mean square (37.38) indicates that these two means differ significantly. In other words, irrespective of the levels of gender, bal/balika ashram adolescent students have significantly higher mean score (10.09) on social adjustment than parental home adolescent students (9.45).

From the above, it may be said that irrespective of the levels of gender, adolescent students of bal/balika ashrams are poor in social adjustment as compared to their parental home counterparts.

Interactional Effect

AxB (Gender x Inhabitanace)

Table 2 indicates that the computed F value for the interaction effect of AxB i.e. (gender x inhabitanace) on social adjustment came out to be 0.93 which is not significant at 0.05 level of confidence. In view of this, the hypothesis stated as "Gender and inhabitanace of adolescent students will have significant interaction effect on social adjustment", was rejected.

From the above, it may be inferred that gender and inhabitanace do not interact significantly to affect the social adjustment of adolescent students. In other words the effect of gender on the area social adjustment of overall adjustment is the same for both the levels of inhabitanace and vice versa.

9. Discussion of the Results

The results of the present study indicates that both the comparative groups (bal/balika ashram and parental home adolescent students) differ significantly from each other on social adjustment **and** gender of adolescent students, irrespective of the levels of inhabitanace, do not have significant effect on social adjustment. In other words, male and female adolescent students do not differ significantly from each other on social adjustment.

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