

Locus of Control of Adolescents in Displaced and Nondisplaced Villages

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Abstract: *The present study is an attempt to study the locus of control of adolescents living in a displaced village and compare with the locus of control of adolescents living in a nondisplaced village. Two hundred and forty-two children in the age group of 13 to 16 years age group studying 8th, 9th and 10th standards constituted the sample. Among the total sample 113 adolescents were from displaced village and 129 adolescents were from nondisplaced village. Levenson's scale for locus of control is used for data collection. It measures three independent areas of locus of control - individual, chance and powerful others. A comparison of mean scores of different areas of locus of control of adolescents of displaced and nondisplaced villages indicated that there is a significant difference in all the 3 areas of locus of control – powerful others, chance control and internal control. Adolescents of displaced village scored significantly higher on powerful others and chance control when compared to their counterparts in a nondisplaced village. Whereas adolescents of displaced village scored significantly lower on individual control when compared to adolescents of nondisplaced village. There is no significant difference found between the locus of control of boys and girls both in displaced and nondisplaced villages.*

Keywords: Adolescents, displacement, displaced village, nondisplaced village, locus of control

1. Introduction

The behavior of any individual cannot be attributed to a single influencing factor. An adolescent's behavior can be determined by both heredity factors and environmental influences like parents, peers and personal experiences that lead him to adopt attitudes and beliefs. Locus of control is a psychological concept that refers to how strongly people believe they have control over the situations and experiences that affect their lives. There are 2 types of locus of control, internal and external. Internal locus of control – Individuals who have an internal locus of control believe that they are responsible for their own successes and failures. External loci of control – People with a strictly external locus of control see themselves as not responsible for their progress and setbacks, but are determined by a power beyond their control” (McBride 2015). Adolescence is the crucial stage of human development, during which foundations of personality development will be formed. Locus of control is one of the important factors that decides, whether they rely on their own abilities and motivation to achieve their goals or they attribute their achievements to external factors like chance, luck or powerful people.

Displacement is forcible migration of families from their native villages to a new place for the purpose of industrial development. Adolescent children are the most vulnerable group, experience feelings of shame and loss of self-confidence in their ability to control their own lives. The present study aims at understanding how the locus of control of adolescents of displaced village differs from adolescents of a nondisplaced village.

Culpin et al. (2015) conducted a longitudinal study on parents and children to find the association between early socioeconomic adversity, depression and external locus of control at the age of 16 years. Socio economic adversity is associated more with external locus of control which was in turn associated with depression. External locus of control is one of the mediating factors between early socio-economic adversity and depression at adolescence.

Age and gender also play an important role in one's internal and external locus of control. The role of age and gender in one's internal and external locus of control is studied by Schultz and Schultz (2005). This study suggests that locus of control increases in internality until middle age. This study points out that significant gender differences in locus of control have not been found for adults in the U.S. population.

Objectives

- 1) To compare the locus of control of adolescents of a displaced village with adolescents of a nondisplaced village.
- 2) To compare the locus of control of adolescent girls and adolescent boys of both the villages.

Method

Sample

The study was carried out in R&R Colony (displaced village) and Konapapapeta village (nondisplaced village) of U. Kothapalli Mandal of East Godavari district. The sample taken was in the age group of 13 to 16 years studying 8th, 9th and 10th standards in government high schools. The sample comprised of 242 adolescents 113 from displaced village and 129 from nondisplaced village.

Tools

- 1) General questionnaire was used to gather information regarding personal profile of the sample.
- 2) Levenson's scale for locus of control.

Data collection

The principals of selected coeducational government schools were contacted, and permission was taken for data collection. The Levenson's scale for locus of control is administered on 8th, 9th and 10th class students. Necessary instructions were given regarding the answering of the test items. Scoring was done according to the instructions given in the manual. The data obtained is statistically analysed using X² test and 't' test.

2. Results and Discussion

Association between the Type of Village and Level of Locus of Control of Adolescents

Locus of control refers to the individuals' belief about controllability over what happens to them in life. An individual's locus of control can vary across situations depending on two main factors: history of success and reinforcement and his or her expectancies (Lloyd and Hastings, 2009). McArthur's (1999) finding indicated that changing socioeconomic status can affect individuals' locus of control. The social learning theory also indicates that locus of control is situation based and having more social experiences can change locus of control (Rotter, 1975). Table 1 shows the association between the type of village and levels of locus of control.

Table 1: Association between Type of Village and Levels of Locus of Control

Level of LOC	Displaced village		Nondisplaced village		Chi-square
	No.	%	No.	%	
Powerful Others					66.205**
High	17	15.04	34	26.35	
Average	95	84.07	47	36.44	
Low	1	0.88	48	37.20	
Chance Control					
High	28	24.77	21	16.27	13.097**
Average	75	66.37	74	57.36	
Low	10	8.85	34	26.35	
Individual Control					
High	11	10.07	49	38.05	55.459**
Average	64	56.58	79	61.06	
Low	38	33.33	1	0.88	

** Significant at 0.01 level

It can be observed from table 1 that in a displaced village 85 per cent of adolescents scored average and 15.04 per cent of adolescents scored high in powerful others. There is only one adolescent who scored low in powerful others. Whereas in a nondisplaced village 37.20 per cent of adolescents scored low, 36.44 per cent scored average and 26.34 scored high in powerful others area of locus of control. As the obtained chi-square value is 66.2 is more than the table value at 0.01 level, it indicates that there is a significant association between the type of village and powerful others scores of the adolescents.

In chance control area of locus of control, majority of the adolescents in displaced village (66.37%) and nondisplaced village (57.36%) had average level of chance control. In contrast, 24.77% of adolescents of displaced village and 16.27 % of adolescents in nondisplaced village had high level of chance control. Whereas only 9% of adolescents in displaced village and 26.35% in nondisplaced village had low level of chance control. The obtained chi-square value is 13.097 which is more than the table value at 0.01 level and hence there is an association between the type of village and chance control scores of adolescents.

The other area of locus of control is individual control. In a nondisplaced village 61.06 per cent had average level of individual control, 38.05 percent had high level of individual control and only 0.88 percent had low level of individual control. Whereas 56.58 per cent scored average and 33.33

per cent scored low in displaced village. Only 10 per cent of the adolescents of displaced village scored high on individual control. The chi-square value obtained is 55.459 which is more than the table value at 0.01 level which indicates that there is an association between the type of village and individual control.

Comparison of Mean Scores of Adolescents of Displaced village and Nondisplaced village on Areas of Locus of Control

Locus of control characterises a person's perspective about self-independence and control by others. Table 2 depicts the mean scores of adolescents of displaced village and nondisplaced village on 3 areas of locus of control – powerful others, chance control and individual control.

Table 2: Mean and SD Scores of Adolescents of Displaced village and Nondisplaced village on Areas of Locus of Control

Area	Displaced village		Nondisplaced village		t value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Powerful Others	27.19	4.90	25.04	8.50	2.30*
Chance Control	27.20	5.10	25.37	6.07	2.65**
Individual Control	26.10	5.30	31.50	3.90	9.37**

*significant at 0.05 level

**significant at 0.01 level

It can be seen from the above table that adolescents of displaced village scored significantly higher than adolescents of nondisplaced village on powerful others at 0.05 level and chance control at 0.01 level. The results clearly indicate that the locus of control of adolescents of the displaced village is dominated by external locus of control. They scored significantly higher on both the areas of external locus of control - powerful others area and chance control area than their peers in nondisplaced village. Earlier studies on locus of control found that adolescents with external locus of control experience more social, professional and academic problems and are defeated sooner in competitive situations. They have many problems in social interchanges and show aggressive and irritable behaviours against social stresses (Lefcourt, 1992).

Whereas, adolescents of displaced village scored significantly lower (0.01 level) on internal locus of control than their counterparts in nondisplaced village. All the families belonging to displaced village were displaced from their native villages by Kakinada Special Economic Zone (KSEZ) project with an objective of developing a special economic zone for establishing industries in that area. These families were self-sufficient when they were in their native villages as regular agriculture labour work and other farm livelihoods were available to them. This scenario has been changed after shifting to the colony and the families were in constant struggle to find appropriate livelihoods. These displaced families are in the opinion that the KSEZ authorities have not taken proper interest in creating secured means of living. This dissatisfaction resulted in regular agitations led by local leaders of the displaced village, by promising people to gain justice by getting additional benefits, compensations, jobs etc. To reduce these agitations,

KSEZ authorities announce sudden incentives and lucrative promises to the families living in the displaced village. They also try to satisfy the agitators with monetary or other benefits to subside the agitations led by them in the displaced village.

All these above circumstances might have an impact on the growing minds of adolescent children of the displaced village. The regular occurrence of disputes in the displaced village and discussions about these incidences in the family, might affect the thinking process of the adolescents. These might create a confusion, whether their lives are based on their own efforts or things are just happening out of luck or controlled by powerful others.

Comparison of Mean Scores of Adolescent Boys and Girls on Areas of Locus of Control

Many factors affect the locus of control of adolescents and researchers observed differences between girls and boys in locus of control. Kulas (2015) longitudinal study indicated that there is a small insignificant shift in locus of control in adolescent boys. Boys became more internal over years, whereas girls became more external.

Table 3 shows mean locus of control scores of adolescent boys and girls of displaced and nondisplaced villages.

Table 3: Mean and SD Scores of Adolescent Boys and Girls of Displaced and Nondisplaced Villages on Areas of Locus of Control

Area	Displaced Village				t value	Nondisplaced Village				t value
	Boys		Girls			Boys		Girls		
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Powerful Others	25.98	6.90	26.10	7.42	0.00@	25.15	8.17	24.96	9.02	0.12@
Chance Control	25.74	5.09	26.67	6.17	0.01@	25.05	5.33	25.66	6.73	0.54@
Individual Control	28.01	5.37	29.07	5.53	0.02@	25.85	4.94	26.34	5.80	0.48@

@ No significant difference

It can be observed from table 3 that no significant gender differences were observed in the locus of control of adolescents of displaced and nondisplaced villages. The present study results are in line with the results of Aashara (2011), Pandya and Jogsan (2013) that there is no significant difference between the locus of control of adolescent boys and girls.

3. Conclusion

The results clearly indicate that the adolescents of displaced village possessed higher external locus of control and lesser on internal locus of control when compared to the adolescents of nondisplaced village. No significant gender differences were found in both displaced and nondisplaced villages in locus of control. Awareness sessions should be organised for the parents of the adolescent age group children living in displaced villages to explain the importance of adolescent age and how the parenting methods influence the personality development of the child. Efforts of government programs, NGO initiatives and school curriculum should prioritise adolescent group of children and design activities to encourage these children to participate in life skill trainings, career counselling and leadership development programs.

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