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STUDY OF PARENTING STYLE OF SCHEDULED CASTE AND NON-SCHEDULED CASTE ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

The aim of present research was to study of parenting styles of scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste adolescents of Ludhiana District. The population of the study was 200 students (100 males and 100 females) belonging to schools of urban and rural areas of Ludhiana. For data collection parenting scale (Bharadwaj, Sharma and Garg, 1998) was used by the investigator. A significant difference was found in the parenting styles of both mothers and fathers between Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents. These differences were consistently observed across urban and rural areas as well as among male and female adolescents. The findings indicate that caste is an important factor influencing adolescents' perceptions of maternal and paternal parenting styles.

Keywords- Parenting Style, Adolescents, Scheduled Caste, Non-Scheduled Caste

Introduction

Parenting style refers to the consistent patterns of attitudes, behaviours, and practices adopted by parents in raising their children, influencing their social, emotional, cognitive, and academic development. According to Baumrind (1971, 1991), parenting styles are primarily characterized by the dimensions of responsiveness (warmth and acceptance) and demandingness (control and supervision), resulting in authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful parenting styles. Research has consistently demonstrated that authoritative parenting is associated with positive developmental outcomes, including better academic achievement, emotional well-being, social competence, self-reliance, and psychological adjustment, whereas non-authoritative parenting is often linked with less favourable outcomes (Aunola, Stattin, and Nurmi, 2000; Barton and Kirtley, 2012). Parenting practices are shaped by various socio-cultural factors, including family environment, gender, caste, and place of residence, and these factors significantly influence adolescents' behaviour and development. Studies by Kumar, Sharma, and Hooda (2012), Doddasiddaiah and Hiremath (2013), Thakur, Sharma, and Pathania (2013), and Rukhsana and Alam (2014) have further



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highlighted the significant role of parenting style in predicting adolescents' emotional intelligence, social intelligence, academic performance, self-esteem, and mental health. These findings underscore the importance of examining parenting styles among different social groups to better understand their influence on adolescent development.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study parenting style (Mother and Father) of scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste adolescents
 - In regard to locale
 - In regard to gender

Hypothesis of the Study

1. There will be no significant difference between parenting style (Mother and Father) of scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste adolescents.
 - In regard to locale
 - In regard to gender

Method and Procedure

Sampling Method

The method applied in the present study is essentially descriptive and of survey type. t ratio was employed to find the difference between means scores on the basis of locale and gender.

Sampling

For the present study 200 adolescents students were taken randomly from the schools schedule caste and non-schedule caste adolescents of Ludhiana District on equal basis. The sample included school students 100 urban and 100 rural. 50 male and 50 female from urban and 50 male and 50 female from rural were selected. The schools were randomly selected but availability of students, favourable attitude of the principal, students and convenience of investigator were also taken in consideration while selecting schools.

Description of Tools

Parenting scale (Bhardwaj, Sharma and Garg, 1998) As a measure of parenting styles of adolescents, parenting scale was used in the present study. The final form of this scale has 40 items related to eight different modes of parenting and are spread in a meaningful manner



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except these related to the marital conflict vs. marital adjustment. These items were placed in a block at number 36 to 40. The items numbered 4, 11, 18, 25, and 32 are stated negatively just to check the habitual disposition of responses. The reliability of this on a sample of 100 elements has been determined by test and retest method with an interval of 21 days on a sample of 100 elements. Validity of parenting scale has been assessed in a number of ways. Each item of the scale is to be scored from upper to lower in terms of 1, 2,3,4,5. The scoring of item number 4, 11, 18, 25, and 32 will be in reverse order 5, 4,3,2,1.

Results and Interpretation

To investigate the significance of difference between the means of parenting style of scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste adolescence for assessing the significant difference between the means, T-test was employed.

Table 1 showing the mean scores of parenting styles (Mother and Father) of scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste adolescents (N=100)

Groups	Parenting Styles	Mean	S.D	S.Ed	t-value
SC adolescents	Mother	148.7	14.76	2.32	2.19*
Non SC adolescents		153.8	17.97		
SC adolescents	Father	148.8	15.64	2.29	2.18*
Non SC adolescents		153.8	16.88		

** Significant at 0.05 level of confidence*

Parenting Style (Mother)

Table 1 shows that the mean scores of parenting style (mother) for Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents are 148.70 and 153.80, respectively, with S.D. values of 14.76 and 17.97. The calculated *t*-value (2.19) is significant at the 0.05 level, indicating a significant difference between the two groups. Therefore, null hypothesis 1 stated that “There will be no significant difference between parenting style (mother) of scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste adolescents.” is rejected. Since Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents obtained a higher mean score, they perceived their mothers' parenting style more positively than Scheduled Caste adolescents. This difference may be attributed to variations in socio-economic conditions, parental educational background, and family environment.



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Parenting Style (Father)

Table 1 shows that the mean scores of parenting style (father) for Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents are 148.80 and 153.80, respectively, with S.D. values of 15.64 and 16.88. The obtained t -value (2.18) is significant at the 0.05 level, indicating a significant difference between the two groups. Therefore null hypothesis 1 stated that “There will be no significant difference between parenting style (father) of scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste adolescents.” is rejected. The higher mean score of Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents suggests that they perceived their fathers' parenting style more positively. This finding may be due to differences in parental involvement, educational opportunities, and the socio-cultural environment across the two groups.

Table 2 showing the mean scores of parenting styles (Mother and Father) of scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste adolescents of urban areas (N=50)

Group (Urban area)	Parenting styles	Mean	S.D	S.Ed	t-value
SC adolescents	Mother	146.6	14.76	3.05	2.13*
Non SC adolescents		153.1	15.79		
SC adolescents	Father	147.0	15.76	3.43	2.50*
Non SC adolescents		155.6	18.40		

** Significant at 0.05 level of confidence*

Parenting Style (Mother)

Table 2 shows that the mean scores of parenting style (mother) for Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents from urban areas are 146.60 and 153.10, respectively, with S.D. values of 14.76 and 15.97. The obtained t -value (2.13) is significant at the 0.05 level, indicating a significant difference between the two groups. Therefore, null hypothesis 1 stated that “There will be no significant difference between parenting style (mother) of scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste adolescents of urban area.” is rejected. The higher mean score of Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents indicates that they perceived their mothers' parenting style more positively. This difference may be attributed to variations in family resources, parental education, and the quality of parent–child interactions in urban settings.

Parenting Style (Father)

Table 2 shows that the mean scores of parenting style (father) for Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents from urban areas are 147.00 and 155.60, respectively,



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with S.D. values of 15.76 and 18.40. The calculated t -value (2.50) is significant at the 0.05 level, indicating a significant difference between the two groups. Therefore null hypothesis 1(a) stated that “There will be no significant difference between parenting style (father) of scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste adolescents of urban areas.” is rejected.. The higher mean score of Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents suggests that they perceived their fathers' parenting style more positively. This difference may be due to greater parental involvement, better educational awareness, and more supportive family environments among Non-Scheduled Caste urban families.

Table 3 shows that the mean scores of parenting styles (mother) of scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste adolescents of rural areas (N=50)

Group (Rural Areas)	Parenting style	Mean	S.D	S.Ed	t-value
SC adolescents	Mother	146.7	14.83	3.33	2.01*
Non-SC adolescents		153.4	18.31		
SC adolescents	Father	148.5	14.26	2.94	2.07*
Non-SC adolescents		154.6	15.17		

** Significant at 0.05 level of confidence*

Parenting Style (Mother)

Table 3 shows that the mean scores of parenting style (mother) for Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents from rural areas are 146.70 and 153.40, respectively, with S.D. values of 14.83 and 18.31. The obtained t -value (2.01) is significant at the 0.05 level, indicating a significant difference between the two groups. Therefore, the null hypothesis, "There will be no significant difference between the parenting style (mother) of Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents from rural areas," is rejected. Since the mean score of Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents is higher, they perceived their mothers' parenting style more positively. This difference may be attributed to variations in parental education, socio-economic status, and the home environment.

Parenting Style (Father)

Table 3 shows that the mean scores of parenting style (father) for Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents from rural areas are 148.50 and 154.60, respectively, with S.D. values of 14.26 and 15.17. The calculated t -value (2.07) is significant at the 0.05 level, indicating a significant difference between the two groups. Therefore, the null



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hypothesis, "There will be no significant difference between the parenting style (father) of Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents from rural areas," is rejected. The higher mean score of Non-Scheduled Caste adolescents suggests that they perceived their fathers' parenting style more positively. This finding may be due to differences in parental involvement, educational awareness, and socio-cultural support within rural families.

Table 4 showing the mean scores of parenting styles (mother and Father) of scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste male adolescents

Group (Male)	Parenting style	Mean	S.D	S.Ed	t-value
SC adolescents	Mother	149.9	14.78	3.45	2.14*
Non-SC adolescents		157.3	19.39		
SC adolescents	Father	152.3	14.14	3.30	2.15*
Non-SC adolescents		159.4	18.59		

** Significant at 0.05 level of confidence*

Parenting Style (Mother)

Table 4 shows that the mean scores of parenting style (mother) for Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste male adolescents are 149.90 and 157.32, respectively, with S.D. values of 14.78 and 19.39. The obtained *t*-value (2.14) is significant at the 0.05 level, indicating a significant difference between the two groups. Therefore, the null hypothesis, "There will be no significant difference between the parenting style (mother) of Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste male adolescents," is rejected. The higher mean score of Non-Scheduled Caste male adolescents indicates that they perceived their mothers' parenting style more positively. This difference may be attributed to variations in parental education, socio-economic background, and the quality of mother-son interactions.

Parenting Style (Father)

Table 4 shows that the mean scores of parenting style (father) for Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste male adolescents are 152.32 and 159.48, respectively, with S.D. values of 14.14 and 18.59. The calculated *t*-value (2.15) is significant at the 0.05 level, indicating a significant difference between the two groups. Therefore, the null hypothesis, "There will be no significant difference between the parenting style (father) of Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste male adolescents," is rejected. Since the mean score of Non-



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Scheduled Caste male adolescents is higher, they perceived their fathers' parenting style more positively. This finding may be due to greater parental involvement, supportive family relationships, and better socio-economic and educational opportunities.

Table 5 showing the mean scores of parenting styles (mother and Father) of scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste female adolescents

Group (Female)	Parenting style	Mean	S.D	S.Ed	t-value
SC adolescents	Mother	147.5	14.89	3.12	2.08*
Non-SC adolescents		154.0	16.31		
SC adolescents	Father	146.3	14.72	3.15	2.96**
Non-SC adolescents		155.6	16.78		

**Significant at 0.05 level of confidence*

*** Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 level of confidence*

Parenting Style (Mother)

Table 5 shows that the mean scores of parenting style (mother) for Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste female adolescents are 147.50 and 154.00, respectively, with S.D. values of 14.89 and 16.31. The obtained *t*-value (2.08) is significant at the 0.05 level, indicating a significant difference between the two groups. Therefore, the null hypothesis, "There will be no significant difference between the parenting style (mother) of Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste female adolescents," is rejected. The higher mean score of Non-Scheduled Caste female adolescents indicates that they perceived their mothers' parenting style more positively. This difference may be attributed to variations in parental support, educational background, and the family environment.

Parenting Style (Father)

Table 5 shows that the mean scores of parenting style (father) for Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste female adolescents are 146.30 and 155.60, respectively, with S.D. values of 14.72 and 16.78. The calculated *t*-value (2.96) is significant at both the 0.05 and 0.01 levels, indicating a highly significant difference between the two groups. Therefore, the null hypothesis, "There will be no significant difference between the parenting style (father) of Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste female adolescents," is rejected. Since the mean score of Non-Scheduled Caste female adolescents is higher, they perceived their fathers' parenting style more positively. This finding may be due to greater parental



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involvement, a supportive home environment, and better socio-economic and educational opportunities.

Educational Implications

The findings of the study have important educational implications for teachers, parents, counsellors, and educational administrators. Adolescence is a sensitive stage of development during which parental guidance plays a crucial role in shaping behaviour and personality. The study highlights the need for parents to provide a supportive, understanding, and emotionally secure home environment. Schools should organize parent awareness programmes to promote positive parenting practices and effective parent–child communication. Teachers and school counsellors should identify adolescents experiencing inadequate parental support and provide appropriate guidance and counselling services. Collaborative efforts between parents and schools can help address adolescents' emotional, behavioural, and academic challenges. The findings also emphasize the importance of developing guidance and counselling programmes that foster healthy personality development, emotional well-being, and positive adjustment among adolescents.

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