Research Article

SOCIALIZATION OF ADOLESCENTS IN SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES IN DEHRADUN CITY

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ABSTRACT

The family system, globally, is going through tremendous changes that have an equal impact on the socialization process of the children, particularly adolescents are the ones who get impacted heavily by any form of change in the family structure, as they are emotionally and psychologically fragile at this stage of age. The single-parent family concept is new in the eastern countries. The process of socialization is a lifelong process that starts primarily from the family. The role of every family member matters but it can be different in broken families. This less-discussed issue has affected many families but little has been done in this sphere. This paper examined the issues and challenges adolescents face and the researcher has tried to present suggestion and solution to overcome the challenges. The sample size of the present study was50 children of single parents in the age group of 11 to 19. The study was conducted in the Raipur block of Dehradun district. The respondents were contacted through the snowballing technique and contacted schools to get acquainted with the children in single-parent families. The respondents were questioned through contacting them on the phone, visiting them, and through e-mail using a questionnaire.

Keywords: Adolescents, single-parents, socialization, family system.

INTRODUCTION

Socialisation of a human being is a continuous and essential process that is required for the functioning of a society. Every society has a different form of socialization process depending on the culture of the society. This process results in the development of a personality that a family or society requires. The process of socialization is an informal teaching method that makes an individual learn the values, customs, traditions and develops habits that are essential for the development of the self and for the society for that matter. Through this process a biological being understands about himself or herself and acknowledge the family members, the society he/she belongs to and develops the sense of community belonging. "Socialisation is a process that transforms an infant into a self-aware, knowledgeable person who is skilled in the ways of their society's culture" (Giddens, 2014).

The socialization of adolescents is the fourth stage. In this stage, the physiological and psychological changes are experienced by an individual in terms of their gender- male/female. The physical and emotional changes are evident in the behavior and outer appearance of an individual. At this stage, an adolescent wants to be free from any kind of family and societal control and likes to be independent. New roles in the social front attract them and they want to enhance their social exposure through peers. This transitional phase from adolescents to adulthood make an individual feel more inclined towards adulthood because they want to know the unknown. This phase is one of the most challenging phases for the parents to tackle as the children do not consider them as kids anymore and they are not yet adult to handle challenging situations on their own. Family, which is a major source of socialization and social control are ignored by the adolescents and they are more attracted by the outer world. In the era of the internet, the social media has taken place of information providers that once were peers. The dependence on the internet is making them weak in decision making as all their queries and inquisitiveness is fulfilled in just one click.

1.1 **Agents of socialization**: As a child is born in a family, he/she has to learn the customs and values of the family and community. There are agents who play an important role in being agencies of socialization. The various agents are family, society, schools, religious institutions, peer group, and mass media.

1. Family: The process of socialization begins from the family. The family is the first agent that the child interacts with, learning by watching the family members. The family teaches the values and customs through positive and negative sanctions. The form of family, its functioning, the education of parents, the behaviour of parents, siblings and other extended family members are directly connected with the socialization of the children.

2. Peer group: The adolescents are highly influenced by the peer group. It is an age when the children dissociate from the family members and gets influenced by the outside world. It happens because the age mates socialize with the adolescents in a greater manner than the elder ones of the family. Playmates, schoolmates inculcate values of competition, cooperation and compromise which are new to an adolescent.

3. School: The next place where a child systematically learns values and virtues is the school. The first place where a child interacts other than the family is school. The school not only imparts education but also teaches basic skills. The role of a teacher in the society is values because of the fact that a teacher is the second person who imparts knowledge and societal values and culture in the life of a child.

4. Social media: social media in the present scenario has replaced many other agents of socialization. It has impacted the language skills, decision making process, the parent-child relation and other offline activities. The most modern form of socialization nowadays is socialization through technology. (Parente *et al.,* 2009)

1.2 **Importance of Socialization:** Socialization represents the process of learning throughout the life of an individual and is evident on the behaviour, belief system, and actions of an individual. (Spitzberg and Huwe, 1991).

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1. The overall personality of an individual is shaped by the process of socialisation he/she has received throughout his/her life.
2. It is a process of transforming a biological being to a social being who can be accepted as a member of society with a set of beliefs and customs.
3. Socialisation shapes a person to accept the social roles he/she gets in life to play as expected by the social -norms.
4. The transmission of culture from one generation to another takes place through socialisation.

STUDY AREA

Dehradun is the capital district of Uttarakhand. It was formed as a temporary capital of the state at the time of formation of the state. It is the westernmost district of the state. Geographically, the district can be divided into two parts montane and sub-montane. Due to its favourable geological conditions, the district has developed massively in the last one decade. Dehradun comes under the Garhwal division of the state. the district is divided into seven tehsils and 7 blocks. Raipur is one of the 7 blocks of Dehradun. It is well known for Maharana Pratap Sports college, Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE), Ordnance Factory and a few top schools of Dehradun. The block has 2 Kendriya Vidhyalayas, and one Government Degree College. There is a total of 111 villages in the Raipur block. As per the 2011 census, the population of the block is 32,900.

Source: Uttaranchalmaps.wordpress.com

Aims and /or Objectives

The objectives of the present study are to understand the challenges of single parents face in the process of socialization. The role played by the parents and how the adolescents react in turn. Further, the present study focuses on the following specific objectives:

1. To examine the role played by the single parent in the process of socialisation.
2. The challenges faced by the parents in socializing the adolescents.
3. To analyze the impact on parent-child relationship.

4. To understand the role played by the community and government for the security and support of the single parents and their adolescents.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework of the study includes the detailed study of socialization of adolescents in single parent families viz. the challenges of single parents and the response of the adolescents. The adolescents will be studied based on their behavior pattern in the school, their academic achievements and response within the family. The parents will be interviewed based on their professional achievements and their behavior patterns in the home and society. The study draws upon Mead's theory of the social self, particularly the concepts of the 'I' and the 'Me,' to understand how adolescents in single-parent families navigate their identity development. As these adolescents internalize societal expectations (the 'Me'), their experiences of social discrimination or support significantly shape their responses (the 'I') and, thus, their self-concept. Erikson's theory of psychosocial development highlights the importance of the adolescence stage, where individuals face the crisis of identity versus role confusion. In single-parent families, this conflict may become more pronounced due to reduced emotional support, social stigma, or financial strain. Adolescents may either emerge with a strong sense of identity if properly supported or experience confusion about their social roles and self-image.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in the Raipur block of Dehradun. Since the number of adolescents of single parent families are not registered officially therefore random selection is not possible hence snowballing technique was used to contact the respondents. Due to limited sources and time constraint the sample size is taken as 50 and questionnaire were provided to respondents through e-mails and phone. The respondents are both male and female between 11to 19 years of age. Descriptive research design is used to highlight the issues and challenges faced by the adolescents in single parent families from the perspective of the children.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The data collection was done through primary and secondary sources. The primary source is taken from the respondents through questionnaire that includes the open and close ended questions. The questionnaire consists of the socio-economic profile, the family pattern, and other relevant questions required in the research. Qualitative and quantitative data collection approach was adopted. Qualitative data was collected from the adolescents using focus group discussion to understand their behaviour and emotional pattern. The secondary data was collected from the research journals, government websites, gazettes, research papers and magazines. Besides, direct observation through participation.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

The data collected was organized in a proper manner and then interpreted through tabulation, statistical arrangements and then report writing. Analysis is done through mathematical operations using statistical tools. Conclusions were made based on the data collection of data through field work and analysis.
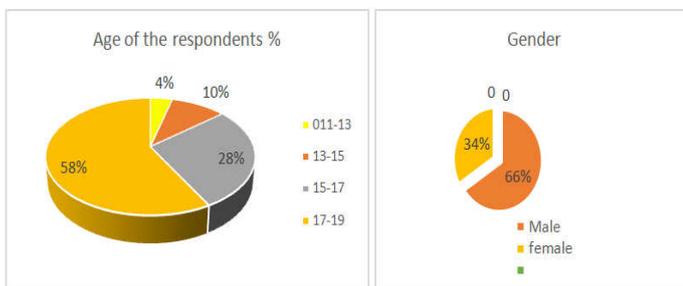
RELEVANCE OF RESEARCH

The study is relevant to understand the socialization process of adolescents and the perspective of the adolescents in single parent families. The impact on the cognitive development and academic performance of the adolescents belonging to single parent families will be understood. Impact on economic resources, on emotional well-being, and on parent child relationship will be analyzed through the research. The efforts done by the government and the community will be analyzed.

DATA ANALYSIS

Socio-Economic Profile: The socio-economic profile of the respondents such as the age, gender, education, and income of the family is discussed below.
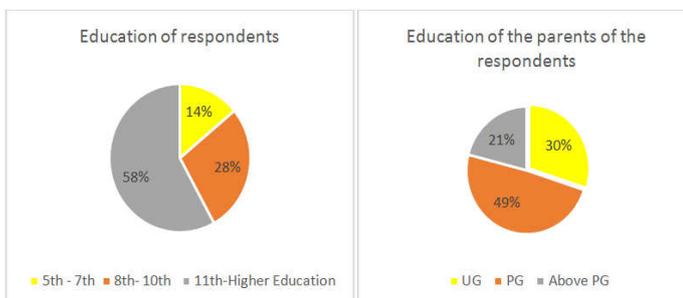
1. Age and gender of the respondents:

This chart explains the age gap of the respondents. The study is based on the adolescents between 11 to 19 years of age. It was found that most of the adolescents were between 15 to 19 years of age. It is probably because the children above 15 develop the sense of society and its complexities and gradually tries to accepts the situations. They were more extrovert in their approach as compared to the children below 15 years of age.
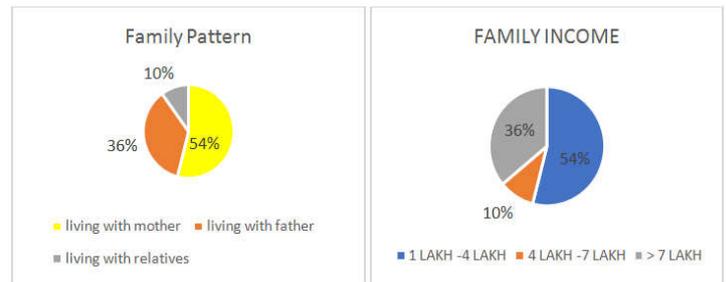
Among the 50 respondents, 33 were female and 17 were male. Female participants were more than the male participants/respondents. The Male participants were less expressive about their socialization process whereas the female participants were more expressive.

2. Education of the respondents and their parents.

Most of the respondents (58%) were pursuing higher education. Only 14% were from class 5th to 7th. Since the children between 11 to 13 years of age are introvert in expressing their family system. The education of the parents of the children plays an important role in socialization. Most of the parents have completed their Post Graduation followed by the Under Graduate parents. Only 21% parents have taken education above PG.
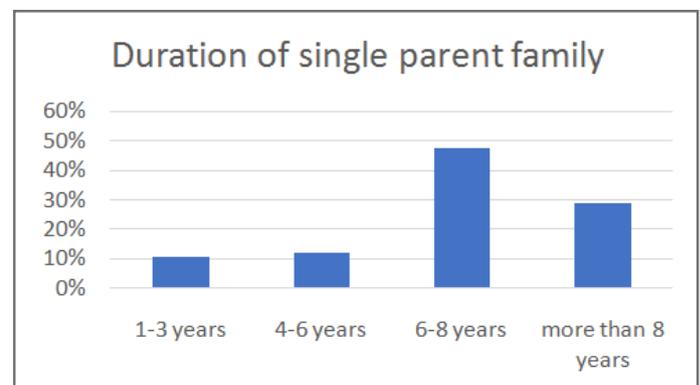
3. Family pattern and Annual income

The above data reveals the family pattern of the adolescents in terms of the children living either with father or mother or with extended family members. It was found that most of the children 54% live with their mother followed by 36% with singe father and the remaining 10% with the extended family mainly the grandparents. The family income is directly proportional with the form of family pattern. The families with single mother earn annually between 1 to 4lakhs, families headed by single father earn more than 7 lakhs annually and the families with extended family members earns 4 to 7 lakhs annually as the number of members in such families are more in numbers and the earning hands are also more.
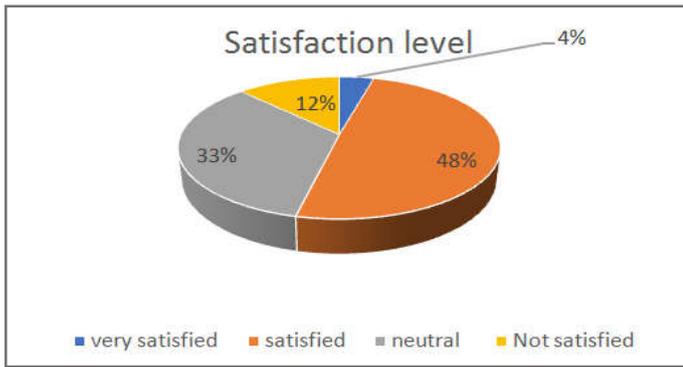
Factors related to socialization of the adolescents

The data analyzed under socialization of the adolescents is based on the information gathered from questionnaire which is discussed below. Various factors like academic performance of the adolescents, the behavior of the adolescent in school and in family, the role of the family in socializing and the community's response is discussed.

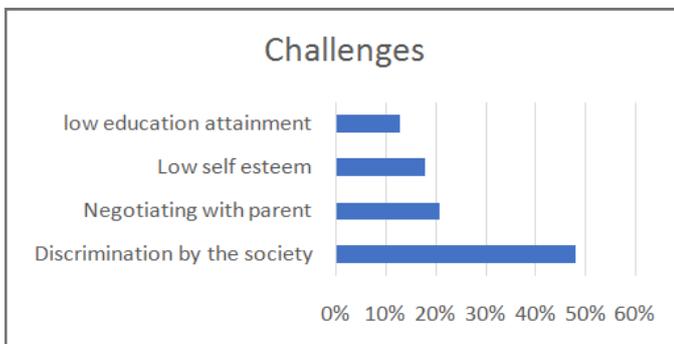### 1. Duration of living in single parent headed family

It was noted that most of the single parent headed families are having this family pattern for not more than 8 years. This shows that the dissolution of marriages is not very common in semi-urban areas. The reason of being single headed family is majorly divorce and separation. Since the widow women live with in-laws and extended family members, the deviation among the adolescent of such families is negligible as compared to children of families where break up of marriages might have happened.
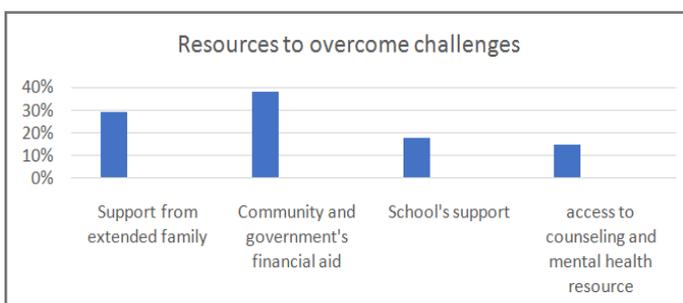
2. Satisfaction with the pattern of family

The above chart indicates that most of the respondents were satisfied with the arrangement of family they are living followed by the respondents who were found to be neutral regarding the pattern which indicates that there is a mixed feeling of being satisfied at some situation and being unsatisfied at the other.

3. Most significant challenge

The chart explains that the adolescents face maximum challenge from the society. The society discriminates between single parent families and complete families. As per the adolescents during social gatherings they have often faced the challenge of being discriminated. The challenge of discrimination is followed by the issue of negotiating with parents. The single parents are usually occupied with multiple tasks of family and professional responsibilities which give them less time to negotiate with the children.

4. Resources that would help to overcome the challenges

The respondents upon asking about the resources they would require to overcome the challenges, most of the respondents agreed on community and government financial aid would help them overcome most of the challenges they face, which indicates that financial liability on single parent is a major concern. The other concern is the support from extended families. Most of the single parent get occupied with their liabilities that they lose contact with extended family members which detaches the children from other members. With the support of

extended family members, the burden of parenting reduces. School's support and counselling is another challenge with least number of respondents concerning over it.

5. The single-parent's contribution

Do you feel that the parent is contributing enough from their side	F(n)	%
Strongly agree	23	46%
Agree	16	32%
Neutral	8	16%
Disagree	3	6%
Strongly disagree	0	0%

The respondents believe that the parents are contributing enough from their ide, in terms of finances, education, and emotional support. The grown-up adolescents understand the challenges the single parent goes through. This indicates that the relationship between the adolescents and the single parent is strong and understanding into the family is respectable. Thought the adolescents of age 10-12 feels that something is missing in their life.

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

After an in-depth study of the socialization of the adolescents, it was found that adolescents as per their age difference understand the issues of the family. Most of the families have single mother as the head of the family, followed by single father. The socialization of the adolescents is a challenge to single parents because this age is considered a critical one where the children get influenced with the outside world more easily than the family members. Following are the findings of the above study:

1. The respondents in the present study indicated that as a child grows his understanding level in single parent families grows to understand the challenges the mother or the father faces. More number of female respondents showed up, highlighting the fac that females were more comfortable in discussing the family and social issues rather than the male counterpart.

2. Since education plays an important factor in dealing with the life situations, the respondents were asked about their education. In this it was found that most of the respondents are in higher education and have completed their schooling. Most of the parents were also post-graduates.

3. Family pattern directly impacts the family income, hence when the respondents were asked about the family pattern, a direct correlation between the two was found. Most of the adolescents live with their mother as the only head of the family. This also indicates that single women do not easily get remarried as compared to the men. The income of the families living with single mothers is less than the families having extended family members as earning heads.

4. It was studied that most of the families have been living in single parent household for around 6 to 8 years. This indicated that the single parent family pattern is new in the sub-urban region like the one studied in the above research.

5. A persons professional and social life immensely effect his/her professional life. The respondents are of the opinion that they are satisfies with their family pattern but there were some respondents who said that their family pattern dissatisfies them and some were neutral on the issue.

6. The society is one of the important agents of socialization but when the society takes the role of an agency of social control it can destroy the mirror image of an individual. The sub-urban society is still under the shadow of gender- stereotyping. The respondents suggested that their biggest challenge of being in a single parent family is the discrimination by the society. This makes them alienated from the society.

7. The adolescents believe that if they are provided financial aid from the community or government, most of their issues would be resolved. Along with it they feel that the society needs to be sensitive towards such families.

The concept of single family is now being discussed in developing as well as under developed countries also but there are misconceptions related to this new form of family structure. Therefore, families have to go through several challenges which can be overcome by community initiative, school level counselling, government support schemes and also motivating longitudinal research.

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