



## MOTHER-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS AND DRUG ADDICTION OF ADOLESCENTS

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### ABSTRACT :

Samples of 125 non-addicted and 75 addicted adolescents undergoing study in Intermediate colleges of Siwan Town in Bihar were drawn randomly. While non-addicted adolescents were identified on the basis of their self-declaration, addicted adolescents were identified on the basis of reports of their friends, relatives, parents and teachers. The samples comprised of only male adolescents and their age range was from 15 to 18 years. Both groups were administered mother form of PCRQ developed by Singh, R.A. (1981) to see whether mother's child rearing practices, such as Loving, Dominating, Rejecting, Protecting, Punishing and Disciplining are any way related or not with drug addiction of adolescents. The comparison of scores of addicted and non-addicted groups on different rearing practices revealed that addicted group received insignificantly lower loving and protecting, higher dominating and significantly higher rejecting, punishing and disciplining treatment from their mother than non-addicted adolescents.

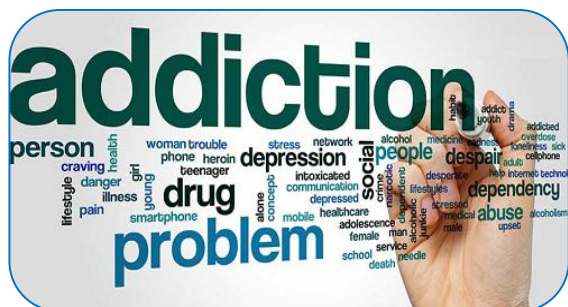
**KEYWORDS :** significantly higher rejecting , protecting.

### INTRODUCTION

Drug addiction is one of the most burning problems of modern society. The monster of drug addiction has badly gripped the youth and adolescents in its clutches. This monster is destroying adolescents physically, mentally, socially and economically. It is more dangerous than many incurable diseases like AIDS and Cancer. Once an individual is enslaved to these satanic drugs it becomes difficult for him to get rid of their whirlpools.

The term addiction is defined as dependence on a substance or practice which is beyond control. Drug addiction is a state of periodic or chronic intoxication produced by the repeated consumption of drug-natural or synthetic – and, which is detrimental to the individual and the society. Drugs include not only narcotics and psychotropic drugs but also alcohol and tobacco. Drugs change our experience of ourselves and the world. They do so by speeding up, slowing down or disrupting and confusing the normal functioning of brain.

A child is confronted with different problems and challenges as he enters into his adolescent social world. Peer groups significantly influence his behaviour patterns. If his companions are normal and treatment from parents is healthy, he is more likely to remain away from drug habituation, which develops in course of time. But if parental treatment and particularly maternal treatment is unhealthy, he is more likely to fall in the company of abnormal and addicted friends where from the disease of drug addiction starts. Mother plays very important role in sound and healthy development of personality of children. Their different rearing practices exert sound



effects on personality development and addiction or non-addiction probabilities of their offsprings.

Although there have been carried out some studies in the past related to different factors contributing to drug addiction of college students in India and abroad (Chakravarti, 1992; Chitnis, 1974; Kalra, 1995; Sandhu and Bansal, 1996; Singh, 2007) but these studies do not point out the relation of mother child relationship with drug addiction of Intermediate level adolescents.

With an eye to seek the relation of these dimensions of mother-child relationship with drug addiction following hypotheses were formulated :-

1. Drug addicts would differ significantly from non-addicts on loving dimension of mother-child relationship.
2. Drug addicts would differ significantly from non-addicts on dominance dimension of mother-child relationship.
3. Drug addicts would differ significantly from non-addicts on rejection dimension of mother-child relationship.
4. Drug addicts would differ significantly from non-addicts on protection dimension of mother-child relationship.
5. Drug addicts would differ significantly from non-addicts on punishment dimension of mother-child relationship.
6. Drug addicts would differ significantly from non-addicts on discipline dimension of mother-child relationship.

#### **METHOD**

**Sample :** The sample consists of 300 male adolescent students undergoing study in Intermediate colleges of Siwan Town of Bihar. Out of 300 subjects 220 students were non-addicted whereas 80 students were addicted. The age range of subjects was from 15 to 18 years.

**Test Used :** Mother form of PCRQ developed by Singh, R.A. (1981) was used which measures mother-child relationship in the dimensions of loving, dominating, protecting, rejecting, punishing and disciplining. Mother form of PCRQ consists of 60 items – 10 items for every relationship area. This is a YES/NO type questionnaire and maximum score for every relationship area can vary from 0 to 10. Higher score denotes higher degree of mother-child relationship in the respective dimension.

Drug addicts were identified on the basis of report of relatives, parents and teachers. Non-addicts were identified on the basis of their self-declaration. The scores of addicted and non-addicted subjects on different dimensions of mother-child relationship were compared. Means, S.Ds and 't' ratios were computed to test the significance of difference between compared groups.

#### **RESULTS AND CONCLUSION**

The comparison of scores of addicted and non-addicted on loving dimension of mother-child relationship reveals that there exists insignificant difference between two groups. The mean score of non-addicted subjects is slightly higher than that of addicted subjects. It denotes that non-addicted students and addicted students receive somewhat equal levels of loving treatment from their mothers. In Indian social set mothers love their children and hide their bad habits from fathers. They are mothers for both good and bad offsprings. Love is not denied by mothers to their sons in normal cases. Mothers not only equally love their all sons but also protects them whether they are addicted or not. It is why there has not been found significant difference between addicted and non-addicted boy students on love, protection and dominance dimensions of mother-child relationship. But rejection, punishment and discipline dimensions of mother-child relationship have produced their significant effects on addiction or non-addiction of adolescents. While higher rejecting, punishing and disciplining practices of mothers have significantly contributed to drug addiction of their sons, lower rejecting, punishing and disciplining practices of mothers have contributed to non-addiction of their sons.

**TABLE – 1**  
**Showing Comparisons of Addicted and Non-addicted Subjects on Different MCR Dimensions**

Groups	MCR Dim.	N	Means	S.Ds	df	't' ratios	Level of Significance
Addicted	Love	80	7.65	2.12	298	1.054	NS
Non-addicted	Love	220	7.95	2.34			
A	Dominance	80	4.46	2.03	298	1.062	NS
NA	Dominance	220	4.17	2.25			
A	Rejection	80	5.25	1.93	298	6.424	.01
NA	Rejection	220	3.62	1.98			
A	Protection	80	6.68	1.96	298	0.722	NS
NA	Protection	220	6.87	2.16			
A	Punishment	80	5.62	1.67	298	6.058	.01
NA	Punishment	220	4.22	2.02			
A	Discipline	80	7.42	2.27	298	4.482	.01
BA	Discipline	220	6.11	2.15			

It is proved by significant mean differences between addicted and non-addicted subjects on rejection, punishment and discipline dimensions of mother-child relationship (Table-1). Since there exist significant differences between addicted and non-addicted students on rejection, punishment and discipline dimensions of mother-child relationship, and addicted students feel and perceive significantly higher rejection, punishment and discipline from their mothers in comparison to non-addicted students, as such, it can be concluded that higher degree of these dimensions is conducive to drug addiction of students. Our findings support the findings of Sandhu & Bansal (1996), Bhardwaj (1996), Singh (1996) and Singh (2007).

**The study finally led to the following conclusions :-**

1. Addicted students receive significantly higher rejecting, punishing and disciplining treatment than non-addicted students from their mothers.
2. Addicted students receive insignificantly lower loving and protecting treatment than non-addicted students from their mothers.
3. Addicted students receive insignificantly higher dominating treatment than non-addicted students from their mothers.

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