



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE OF ADOLESCENTS

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ABSTRACT:

Human as an individual has different abilities, nature and characteristics so the relationship and impact of these characteristics and attributes have an important role in his overall performance and behavior. It is vital to understand the various contributing factors which has an impact on the overall development in each stages of life, it is necessary to understand the relationship and impact of these factors to interpret the character and behavior of an individual. Spiritual intelligence is one of man's characteristics. It is the result of the influence of emotional, environmental, psychological and various other factors. All these factors can also have an important impact on the quality of man's life, beliefs and attitude while facing daily problems. The aim of the present study was to examine the relationship between Family environment and spiritual intelligence among college going adolescents. 150 college going adolescent both boys and girls from different arts and science colleges of Chennai city was randomly selected. Multiple regression analysis was used to formulate the research hypothesis. The Spiritual Intelligence Self-Report Inventory (SISRI), King (2008) Bhatia and chadha (1993) was used to collect the research data. The findings of the result revealed family environment as a contributing factor for the level of spiritual intelligence among adolescents. Family environment had a positive significant relationship with the spiritual intelligence among college going adolescents.

KEY WORDS: - Family environment, spiritual intelligence.

INTRODUCTION

One of the most fundamental functions of the family is the development of children's character and improvement of their abilities and intelligence. The vital atmosphere in the family environment is one of the influential factors in developing spiritual value and intelligence. The family and the members, who give their children the necessary guidance and help them in intellectual development and reasoning assist them develop their intellectual growth. Individual with nurtured with healthy family environment tend to to socially emotionally and intellectually healthy. The individual involves in creating ,changing and a deep understanding of layers of his personality and considers life as something meaningful and valuable or imagines life as something absurd, meaningless and aimless (King, 2008). Reflection on the state of philosophy of existence, creation, death and life is an indication of spiritual growth. It roots in early childhood education and development by parents. In addition to affecting the individual's character and overall attitude, this way of thinking will impact on the amount satisfaction and life quality (Nasel, 2004).

According to Amram's definition (2009), spiritual intelligence is a kind of ability that causes self-consciousness, self-control, profound understanding of meaning of life, purposefulness, increase in peace, the ability to communicate effectively with others and mental health. **World Health Organization (1998)** has incorporated spiritual dimension in its latest definition of health. WHO defines health as a dynamic state of complete physical, mental, spiritual, and social well being. Spiritual intelligence is the consequence of the

highest level of individual growth in the fields of cognition, meaning attainment, transcendental and moral communication (Vaughan, 2002). Therefore, spiritual intelligence can be an important factor in the individual's compatibility in vicissitude and improvement of quality of life. One of the main requirements of this study is paying attention to the factors affecting adolescents' intellectual and mental ability and growth which are essential conditions for developing ideas and empowered individuals for the future of a society. Another necessity that is sensed in today's contemporary social-historical system understands the relationship between spiritual intelligence and family environment. It is intended to provide this important feature in adolescents through strengthening and helping to the growth and development of these factors, thereby, to provide adolescents' success rate in dealing with challenging situations, and to understand better the feeling of purposefulness in life and having the critical view towards the philosophy of being and life. The present research has investigated the relationship between spiritual intelligence and family environment among college adolescents in Chennai city. The aim of the present study is the relationship and the effect of family environment and spiritual intelligence, firmness of beliefs and ideas towards a transcendental being while facing problems. The necessity of this spiritual aspect is felt more than ever in the lives of modern students and adolescents. Making life personally meaningful is one of the components of spiritual intelligence. It results in improving life quality and reducing the intensifying signs of cognitive affairs while facing difficulties, frustration and mental and psychological concerns.

Understanding the factors is related to strengthening the beliefs and attitudes which help to improve life quality and ability to deal with inevitable daily events. It causes to provide this important feature in adolescents through strengthening and helping to the growth and development of these factors. So, the main hypothesis of this study is that there is a relationship between family environment and spiritual intelligence. One of the factors having a significant influence on the growth and development of spiritual intelligence is the Family and culture are two influential factors in developing creativity, thinking, spiritual values and activating the high levels of spiritual intelligence such as meditation (King, 2008). Though cognitive features and abilities may be affected by numerous factors over different stages, but one of the most influential factors is family environment and peer group influence for the adolescent stage.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The sample included 150 college going adolescent boys and girls. The sample size was equally divided as 75 adolescent boys and 75 adolescent girls. Sampling technique used for this research was random sampling technique. The tools administered for this research study was the Spiritual Intelligence Self-Report Inventory (SISRI) (D.King,2008) and family environment scale, Bhatia and chadha (1993). Spiritual intelligence self-report inventory (SISRI) questionnaire consists of 24 items having four different domains. Higher scores represent higher levels of spiritual intelligence and/or each capacity. Family Environment Scale (FES) consists of 69 items having three dimensions which are, (1) relationship dimensions, includes-cohesion, expressiveness, conflict and acceptance and caring (2) personal growth dimensions, includes-independence and active- recreational orientation and (3) system maintenance dimensions, includes-organization and control

RESULTS:

The statistical result of the present study for the mean scores of spiritual intelligence among adolescent boys and girls it was found that adolescent girls had a higher score (SD-6.56) on spiritual intelligence compared to the adolescent boys with regard to their level of spiritual intelligence.

Table I: Mean, Standard deviation, 't' Value between Adolescent Boys and Girls On Spiritual Intelligence

GENDER	MEAN	SD	't' Value
Girls	12.68	6.56	4.42**
Boys	7.75	4.12	

From the table II variables related to family environment had a positive significant relationship with adolescents spiritual intelligence. Three dimensions of the family environment were considered relatively good predictors of spiritual intelligence of adolescent.

Table II: Relationship between spiritual intelligence and Family environment

REGRESSION	VARIABLES	't' VALUE	p VALUE
R= 0.47 R Square=0.28	Family environment-Relationship dimensions and Spiritual Intelligence	0.78	0.01**
Adjusted R Square=0.16	Family environment-Personal growth dimensions and Spiritual Intelligence	-0.68	.496
F = 3.07 p<0.01	Family environment-System maintenance dimensions, and Spiritual Intelligence	-0.51	.606

Relationship dimension, personal growth dimension and system maintenance dimensions respectively was a positive predictors of spiritual intelligence of adolescents. Relationship dimensions (R=0.47, r square=0.28, F=3.07 p< 0.01) had an significant effect on the spiritual intelligence among adolescent boys and girls. Personal growth and system maintenance did not had any significant effect on the spiritual intelligence among adolescent boys and girls.

DISCUSSION:

Results indicated that there was a significant relationship between family environment and the spiritual intelligence of adolescents. Among the dimensions of family environment, relationship dimensions had a positive relationship with spiritual intelligence but other two dimensions of family environment such as personal growth and system maintenance did not show significant relationship on spiritual intelligence. Gender also had an influence on spiritual intelligence. It was interesting to note that girls exhibited higher scores on spiritual intelligence than boys. The results provide evidence that the family environment and gender of the adolescents had a significant role to play on the spiritual well being of an individual. Adolescent girls had a higher level of spiritual intelligence than adolescent boys.

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