



# REVIEW OF RESEARCH

ISSN: 2249-894X

IMPACT FACTOR : 5.7631 (UIF)

UGC APPROVED JOURNAL NO. 48514

VOLUME - 8 | ISSUE - 9 | JUNE - 2019



## HOME ENVIRONMENT OF DALIT AND NON-DALIT STUDENTS – A COMPARATIVE INVESTIGATION

Amardeep Kumar<sup>1</sup> and Digvijay Kumar<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Research Scholar , P. G. Deptt. of Psychology , J. P. University, Chapra.

<sup>2</sup> Research Scholar , P. G. Deptt. of Psychology , J. P. University, Chapra.

### ABSTRACT:

To see the effect of Socio-cultural disadvantaged and residential area on perceived different dimensions of home environment 'Family Environment Scale' constructed and standardized by Bhatia and Chadha (2015) and 'Personal Information Inventory' were administered on a sample of 300 college level students. The sample was drawn from constituent colleges of Saran district of Bihar. Out of this sample of 300 students 150 were from Dalit castes and 150 were from Non-Dalit castes of age range from 18-21 years. Comparison of scores on different dimensions of home environment of Dalit and Non-Dalit, and rural and urban groups/subgroups revealed that Dalit students perceived significantly lower cohesiveness, expressiveness, acceptance and caring, active recreational orientation, organization and control but higher conflict than their Non-Dalit counterparts. Rural and urban subjects were also found differing on their perceived home environment.



**KEYWORDS:** Socio-cultural disadvantaged and residential area , Dalit castes.

### INTRODUCTION

The term Dalit in Sanskrit is derived from the root dal which means to split, break, crack and so on. When used as an adjective, it means split, broken, burst, destroyed and crushed. It is said that Jyotiba Phule (1827-90), the founder of the Satyashodhak Samaj, a non-Brahmin movement in Maharashtra, a social reformer and revolutionary, used this term to describe the outcastes and untouchables as the oppressed and broken

victims of the Indian caste-ridden society. It is also believed that it was Dr. B. R. Ambedkar who coined the word first. Dalits or the scheduled castes (SCs) who comprise the bulk of 'untouchables' are technically outside the four-fold varna scheme. These castes were imputed with maximum degree of ritual and social impurity. Their occupations were held to be the lowest in normative hierarchy. This led to their residential segregation in villages and towns. The SCs did not constitute a

homogeneous stratum. Before being 'scheduled' in 1935, these castes were classified as exterior castes, depressed castes, broken men and outcastes. In 1931 census, some social criteria were used for identifying the caste as 'exterior'. Some of these criteria were : whether they are served by Brahmins as purohits, whether served by barbers, tailors, etc., whether they can serve water to caste Hindus, whether they can enter Hindu temples, whether they can use public conveniences such as roads, wells, schools, etc.,

whether their touch or proximity pollutes high castes, whether in ordinary social intercourse, they are treated as equals by high caste men, whether they are engaged in despised occupations and so forth. In 1935, in all 227 castes with a total population of 50.1 million, were listed as SCs. In 1991, this population increased to 138.22 million, which comprised 16.3 percent of the country's total population. At present total SC population in India is estimated to be around 20%.

Family or home, as a reproductive or a biological unit, consists of a man and a woman having a socially approved sexual relationship and whatever offspring (natural or adopted) they might have. As a social unit, a family is referred to as "a group of persons of both sexes, related by marriage, blood or adoption, performing roles based on age, sex and relationship, and socially distinguished as making up a single household or a sub-household". Aileen Ross' (1961) definition of family includes physical, social and psychological elements of family life. According to her, family is "a group of people usually related as some particular type of kindred, who may live in one household and whose unity resides in patterning of rights and duties, sentiments and authority".

In a family, whether it is joint or nuclear, whether it consists of only two members- husband and wife- or more than two members, family members interact with one another. The nature of interaction of family members forms an environment in the family called family or home environment. From psychological angle, family or home environment can be defined as the pattern of interpersonal relationships among family members and particularly between the parents and the child.

Family environment possesses a consistency of impact on its members with regard to values, standards, ways of living, behaving and thinking, ways of responding to object, attitudes, aspirations and adjustment. Family influence predominates throughout the life (Hurlock, 1986). While the influence of family environment on the individual is mostly positive, but in certain cases where deprivation and disadvantage reign the influence becomes negative. In such family environments, members of the family takeout all their frustrations on each other. Moreover, instead of being a readymade source of friends, the family is too often a readymade source of victims and enemies, the place where the cruelest words are spoken.

Family environment has three main dimensions- relationship dimensions, personal growth dimensions and system maintenance dimension. Relationship dimension comprises cohesion, expressiveness, conflict and acceptance and caring. Cohesion denotes degree of commitment, help and support provided by family members for one another. Expressiveness denotes the extent to which family members are encouraged to act openly and express their feelings and thoughts directly. Acceptance and caring denotes the extent to which the members are unconditionally accepted and the degree to which caring is expressed in the family.

Personal growth dimension comprises independence and active recreational orientation. Independence denotes the extent to which family members are assertive and independently make their own decisions. Active recreational orientation denotes the extent of participation in social and recreational activities of the family and family members.

System maintenance dimension comprises organization and control. Organization denotes the degree of importance of clear organization pattern while planning activities and responsibilities of the family. Control denotes degree of setting limits of activities and behaviours in the family.

Although there have been carried out different studies during past years related to family or home environment (Devi and Rayal, 2004; Dhingra, 2017; Narain, 2013; Pandey and Audichya, 2012; Sati and Gir, 2012) but there have not been carried out any investigation related to family environment of Dalits in current scenario. So, the investigator is interested in investigating the role of prolonged socio-cultural disadvantage and residential area in perceptual variation of different dimensions of home environment. For this the following hypotheses were formulated :-

- 1) There shall be significant differences on different dimensions of perceived home environment between Dalit and Non-Dalit groups.
- 2) There shall be significant differences on different dimensions of perceived home environment between Dalit-rural and Dalit-urban sub-groups.
- 3) There shall be significant differences on different dimensions of perceived home environment between Non-Dalit-rural and Non-Dalit-urban sub-groups.

**METHOD**

**SAMPLE :-** The study was conducted on a sample of 300 college level (150 Dalit + 150 Non-Dalit) students undergoing study in degree classes of rural and urban constituent colleges of Saran District of Bihar. The age range of students was from 18-21 years.

**TESTS USED :-** For measuring different dimensions of home environment 'Family Environment Scale' (FES-BC) has been used. The scale has been constructed and standardized by Bhatia and Chadha (2015). The scale consists of 69 items related to eight dimensions of home environment. A Self-made 'Personal Information Inventory' was used to seek informations from subjects related to their name, age, sex - male/female, educational qualification, Residential Area - Rural/Urban; marital status, Caste - Dalit/Non-Dalit etc.

**STATISTICAL ANALYSIS :-** To see the effect of socio-cultural deprivation and residential area on different dimensions of home environment means and S.Ds. were calculated for scores on different dimensions of Dalit, Non-Dalit, Dalit rural, Dalit urban, Non-Dalit rural and Non-Dalit urban groups/sub-groups separately. After this 't' test was run to test the significance of mean differences on different dimensions of home environment of different groups or sub-groups.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The mean scores on cohesion, expressiveness, conflict, acceptance and caring, independence, active recreational orientation, organization and control dimensions of perceived home environment of Dalit group are 48.90, 30.86, 42.3667, 43.0667, 32.6733, 26.74, 7.1733 and 13.8867 respectively while those on the same dimensions of perceived home environment of Non-Dalit group are 52.00, 31.3133, 45.5667, 46.4667, 34.0067, 29.54, 8.0067 and 15.0067 respectively (Table - 1). The obtained 't' ratios between mean scores of Dalit and Non-Dalit groups on cohesion, expressiveness, conflict, acceptance and caring, independence, active recreational orientation, organization and control dimensions of perceived home environment are 3.1455, 3.0081, 3.0842, 3.1723, 1.6854, 3.7457, 4.1751 and 3.1234 respectively. Out of these eight 't' ratios Seven 't' ratios are significant at .01 level whereas one 't' ratio for independence dimension is lower than the required value for significance at .05 level. So this 't' ratio is insignificant.

**Table - 1**  
**Showing Means, S.Ds. and 't' ratios of Scores on different dimensions of Home Environment - Dalit and Non-Dalit Groups.**

Groups	Dimensions	N	Means	S.Ds.	df	't' ratios	Level of Sig.
Dalit	Cohesion	150	48.90	8.9828	298	3.1455	.01
Non-Dalit	"	150	52.00	8.0623			
Dalit	Expressiveness	150	30.86	7.1267	298	3.0081	.01
Non-Dalit	"	150	31.3133	6.9985			
Dalit	Conflict	150	42.3667	9.6453	298	3.0842	.01
Non-Dalit	"	150	45.5667	8.2732			
Dalit	Acceptance & caring	150	43.0667	9.7807	298	3.1723	.01
Non-Dalit	"	150	46.4667	8.7549			
Dalit	Independence	150	32.6733	6.8437	298	1.6854	NS
Non-Dalit	"	150	34.0067	6.8593			
Dalit	Active -R. Orient.	150	26.74	6.8699	298	3.7457	.01
Non-Dalit	"	150	29.54	6.0519			
Dalit	Organisation	150	7.1733	1.8394	298	4.1751	.01
Non-Dalit	"	150	8.0067	1.6104			
Dalit	Control	150	13.8867	3.1975	298	3.1234	.01
Non-Dalit	"	150	15.0067	3.0105			

Socio-cultural disadvantage/advantage has been found influencing different dimensions of perceived home environment also. While socio-cultural advantage has been found significantly improving perceived cohesiveness, expressiveness, acceptance and caring, active recreational orientation, organization and control in family environment, this variable has been found significantly increasing perceived conflict in family environment. Disadvantage, whether it is educational, political, economic or socio-cultural brings different evils and demerits with it. A disadvantaged family quarrels on petty issues not only within group members but also with out-group members. Quarrelsome atmosphere created by frequent conflicts among family members reduces cohesiveness in family atmosphere and members often fall easy prey to unwarranted tensions, apprehensions and mistrust. These lead to depression and anxiety. It is evident that socio-cultural disadvantage of Dalit has increased their perceived conflict in family environment and lowered their perceived cohesiveness, expressiveness, acceptance and caring, active recreational orientation, organization and control in family environment.

The mean scores on cohesion, expressiveness, conflict, acceptance and caring, independence, active recreational orientation, organization and control dimensions of perceived home environment of Dalit-R students are 50.2334, 28.6538, 40.4134, 41.6516, 30.0649, 26.1569, 7.8224 and 12.1662 respectively while the mean scores on the same dimensions of Dalit-U students are 47.3761, 33.3814, 44.5990, 44.6839, 35.6543, 27.4064, 6.4315 and 15.8529 respectively (Table - 2). The mean scores on cohesion, expressiveness, conflict, acceptance and caring, independence, active recreational orientation, organization and control dimensions of perceived home environment of Non-Dalit-R students are 53.1164, 31.5516, 43.2916, 44.2865, 32.5518, 28.3226, 8.5229 and 13.3658 respectively while the mean scores on the same dimensions of Non-Dalit-U students are 51.1463, 34.6605, 47.3065, 48.1339, 35.1193, 30.4709, 7.6119 and 16.2615 respectively (Table - 3). The obtained 't' ratios for Dalit-R x Dalit-U groups on cohesion, expressiveness, conflict, acceptance and caring, independence, active recreational orientation, organization and control dimensions of perceived home environment are 2.1266, 4.0604, 2.9444, 2.0612, 5.0724, 1.1433, 5.3410 and 7.1197 respectively. Out of these eight 't' ratios seven 't' ratios are significant either at .01 level or at .05 level. One 't' ratio for active recreational orientation is lower than the required value for significance at .05 level. So there does not exist significant difference between Dalit-R and Dalit-U groups on active recreational orientation but on all other dimensions of perceived home environment there exist significant differences between Dalit-R and Dalit-U groups.

The obtained 't' ratios for Non-Dalit-R x Non-Dalit-U groups on cohesion, expressiveness, conflict, acceptance and caring, independence, active recreational orientation, organization and control dimensions of perceived home environment are 1.5107, 2.6090, 2.9746, 2.6636, 2.4392, 2.0535, 3.1917 and 5.9896 respectively. Out of these eight 't' ratios seven 't' ratios are significant either at .01 level or at .05 level. One 't' ratio for cohesion dimension is lower than the required value for significance at .05 level. So there does not exist significant difference between Non-Dalit-R and Non-Dalit-U groups on cohesion dimension. Out of sixteen 't' ratios fourteen 't' ratios are significant either at .01 level or at .05 level. Two 't' ratios are insignificant.

**Table - 2**  
**Showing Means, S.Ds. and 't' ratios of Scores on different dimensions of Home Environment - Dalit Rural and Urban Subgroups.**

Groups	Dimensions	N	Means	S.Ds.	df	't' ratios	Level of Sig.
Dalit -R	Cohesion	80	50.2334	8.5246	148	2.1266	.05
Dalit -U	"	70	47.3761	7.9233			
Dalit -R	Expressiveness	80	28.6538	7.4269	148	4.0604	.01
Dalit -U	"	70	33.3814	6.8285			
Dalit -R	Conflict	80	40.4134	8.7473	148	2.9444	.01
Dalit -U	"	70	44.5990	8.6318			
Dalit -R	Acceptance & caring	80	41.6516	9.0052	148	2.0612	.05
Dalit -U	"	70	44.6839	8.9741			
Dalit -R	Independence	80	30.0649	6.9311	148	5.0724	.01
Dalit -U	"	70	35.6543	6.5546			
Dalit -R	Active -R. Orient.	80	26.1569	6.7702	148	1.1433	NS
Dalit -U	"	70	27.4064	6.5954			
Dalit -R	Organisation	80	7.8224	1.6014	148	5.3410	.01
Dalit -U	"	70	6.4315	1.5822			
Dalit -R	Control	80	12.1662	3.2293	148	7.1197	.01
Dalit -U	"	70	15.8529	3.1056			

**TABLE - 3**  
**Showing Means, S.Ds. and 't' ratios of Scores on different dimensions of Home Environment - Non-Dalit Rural and Urban Subgroups.**

Groups	Dimensions	N	Means	S.Ds.	df	't' ratios	Level of Sig.
Non-Dalit- R	Cohesion	65	53.1164	7.6615	148	1.5107	NS
Non-Dalit- U	"	85	51.1463	8.2339			
Non-Dalit- R	Expressiveness	65	31.5516	6.9776	148	2.6090	.05
Non-Dalit- U	"	85	34.6605	7.5514			
Non-Dalit- R	Conflict	65	43.2916	8.3116	148	2.9746	.01
Non-Dalit- U	"	85	47.3065	8.0319			
Non-Dalit- R	Acceptance & caring	65	44.2865	8.7262	148	2.6636	.01
Non-Dalit- U	"	85	48.1339	8.8186			
Non-Dalit- R	Independence	65	32.5518	6.2215	148	2.4392	.05
Non-Dalit- U	"	85	35.1193	6.5993			
Non-Dalit- R	Active -R. Orient.	65	28.3226	6.2334	148	2.0535	.05
Non-Dalit- U	"	85	30.4709	6.4977			

Non-Dalit- R	Organisation	65	8.5229	1.7572	148	3.1917	.01
Non-Dalit- U	"	85	7.6119	1.6991			
Non-Dalit- R	Control	65	13.3658	2.8554	148	5.9896	.01
Non-Dalit- U	"	85	16.2615	3.0339			

On comparing rural and urban subjects of Dalit and non-Dalit groups on different dimensions of perceived home environment it is found that urbanization decreases cohesiveness, conflict and organization but increases expressiveness, acceptance and caring, independence, active recreational orientation and control in both Dalit and non-Dalit groups. It is another thing that rural urban differences have not been found significant on active recreational orientation in Dalit group and on cohesiveness in non-Dalit group. Urbanization begets individualism. Persons seeking personal growth and development pay less heed to family cohesiveness and organization. It is why in urban sample, whether it is related to Dalit group or non-Dalit group, lower cohesiveness and organization in family environment have been perceived by respondents. However, it is evident that most of the dimensions of perceived family environment are influenced by residential area.

#### The study has finally led to the following conclusions -

- (1) Dalit students perceive significantly lower cohesiveness, expressiveness, acceptance and caring, active recreational orientation, organization and control; and higher conflict in their family environment than non-Dalit students.
- (2) Urban students perceive significantly higher expressiveness, acceptance and caring, independence, and control; and lower cohesiveness, conflict and organization than rural students in Dalit group.
- (3) Urban students perceive significantly higher expressiveness, acceptance and caring, independence, active recreational orientation and control; and lower cohesiveness, conflict and organization than rural students in non-Dalit group.

#### REFERENCES

- Bhatia, H. and Chadha, N.K. (2015) : 'Family Environment Scale' National Psychological Corporation, Agra.
- Devi, L.U. and Rayal, U.T.R. (2004) : 'Adolescent's Perception about Family Environment and Emotional Intelligence', Indian Psychological Review, 62(2), 157-167.
- Dhingra, K. (2017) : 'Home Environment and Child Well-being', AJPE, 50(5-6), 46-52.
- Hurlock, E.B. (1986) : 'Personality Development', TMH Publishing Co. Ltd. New Delhi.
- Narain, S. (2013) : 'Family Environment and Self-esteem of Adolescents', Behavioural Research Review, 5(1), 111-113.
- Pandey, P. and Audichya, S. (2012) : 'Home environment of Boys and Girls During Middle Childhood', Indian Psychological Review, 78(3), 115-120.
- Ross, Aileen (1961) : 'Hindu Family in its Urban Setting'. Oxford University Press, Toronto.
- Sati, L. and Gir, S. (2012) : 'Home Environment of Late Adolescent Girls Belonging to Nuclear and Joint Families', Indian Psychological Review, 79(Spl. Issue), 263-266.



**Amardeep Kumar**

Research Scholar, P. G. Deptt. of Psychology, J. P. University, Chapra.



**Digvijay Kumar**

Research Scholar, P. G. Deptt. of Psychology, J. P. University, Chapra.