

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF JOINT AND NUCLEAR FAMILY ON NEUROTICISM IN RURAL AND URBAN CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

The present study is aimed at studying family structure on neuroticism which was conducted in Madhubani and Darbhanga districts of Bihar. For the present study, 400 students (N=400) comprising rural joint family boys (N=50), rural joint family girls (N=50), urban joint family boys (N=50), urban joint family girls (N=50), rural nuclear family boys (N=50), rural nuclear family girls (N=50), urban nuclear family boys (N=50) and urban nuclear family girls (N=50) were randomly selected in class VII. In order to assess the joint and nuclear family students, the Junior Eysenck Personality Inventory has been used. Personal data sheet has been developed by the research scholar. Having collected the data through the questionnaire schedule, the data were tabulated according to the procedure for statistical treatment. The results revealed that boys of urban joint families of low income group were found to be more neurotic and girls of rural nuclear family of low income group were found to be less neurotic. However, significant difference has also been found between the groups of girls and boys as t-value is found statistically significant beyond 0.05 and 0.01 levels. The obtained percentage of high neuroticism in different families structures effect that there was greater number of low neurotics in girls of rural joint families and greater number of high neurotics in boys of rural nuclear families.

INTRODUCTION

The present day global involvement with such major problems of differences in personality characteristics. Katz (1969) says, "Some writers, particularly those who are psychoanalytically oriented, attribute the disadvantaged pupil's learning difficulties to a basic failure of the socialization process in the home. The personality development of the children may differ within the same cultural matrix depending upon whether children are festered in rural or in urban area. Whether thus grow up in the slums or in the best residential section, whether their early life spent in a house. Whether their parents are rich or poor, joint or nuclear, cultured or uncultured, religious or irreligious (Munn, 1964). Studies have been conducted on Extroversion/Introversion and degree of neuroticism on Engineers, doctors, teacher and adolescents and by the authors like – Jang et al. (1996); Costa and McCrae (1994); Zuckermen (1994); Botwin and Burs (1989); Lidhoo and Zargar (1980); Lidhoo (1982); Brar (1976); Mohan (1976); Dutt (1976); Hafee and Shanthamani (1972); Entwistle and Cunningham (1968); Mohan

(1968); Child (1964); Lynn and Gordon (1961); Bending (1960) and Eysenck (1953). The role of structural dimension of family and neuroticism has little attention. Eysenck suggested that the second major dimension of personality is emotional stability or neuroticism. This dimension describes at one end people who tend to be moody, touchy, anxious, worrying, frequently depressed and restless. He is likely to sleep badly and suffers from various psychosomatic disorders. He is overly emotional reacting too strongly to all sorts of stimuli and finds it difficult to get back on even keel after each emotionally arousing experience.

In these days industrialization, urbanization, separation rapid scientific and technological development, economic crisis, increasing the number of divorced cases, increasing the cost of living and economic need are affecting the family patterns of the societies of western and eastern cultures of the world. Rapid changes in family forms are taking place and the numbers of nontraditional house hold –single persons single parents, unrelated adults are increasing day to day in our and other societies of

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the world. Joint families of our societies are breaking into nuclear families rapidly in rural and urban areas. Nuclear family units are characteristics of relatively simple societies in which people are nomadic and engage in hunting and gathering. They are also characteristics of industrialized societies, such as in American societies, family form is mostly nuclear. In India nuclear families are more in numbers in metropolitan cities, such as Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and Delhi. In Indian societies, joint and nuclear family forms both are found in rural and urban areas, but in rural areas number of joint families are more than urban areas. Extended families are more commonly found in societies in which people rely on the food they cultivate-agrarian societies. The number of extended families in Indian societies is vanishing day to day a little proportion of our population is living in extended family arrangements.

In order to ascertain the effect of economic status on the level of neuroticism, the neuroticism scores of subjects classified on the basis of sex, locale and family structure were compared to each other. This was done because socio-economic status has been found to play significant role in the development of personality traits (Sharma, 1975; Kumar, Sinha&Sinha, 1996).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY

Aims and objective of the study, as well as its methodological dimensions are as follows the study had been proposed to ascertain the effects of structural and functional dimensions of family on the development of personality traits in children. Thus, joint and nuclear family was considered as independent variables and neuroticism were considered as dependent variables. In this context following hypothesis were formulated :

1. Boys of urban joint family of low income group would be more neurotic than children of other group.
2. Rural youth develop learned helpless from

the very beginning due to disadvantaged social and economic conditions.

DEFINITION OF VARIABLES

Joint Family:

Joint family in this study will refers to a family in which parents, grand-parents, uncles, aunts and cousins live together.

Nuclear Family:

Nuclear family in this study will refer to family in which only parents and their children live.

Rural Areas:

Rural areas in this study refers to the areas that do not lie within the municipal limits.

Urban Areas:

Urban areas in this study refers to the areas lie within the municipal limits.

Neuroticism:

Neuroticism is one of the dimension of the personality particularly stressed in the work of Eysenck (1947). It relates to the person who exhibits the lack of stability associated with normal functions. High scores on Neuroticism would mean worrying, insecure and anxious people while as low scores would mean that they are calm, secure and stable.

METHODOLOGY

SAMPLE

The sample comprised 50 rural boys of joint family, 50 rural boys of nuclear family, 50 rural girls of joint family and 50 rural girls of nuclear family. Similarly a comparative group of 50 urban boys of joint family, 50 urban of nuclear family, 50 girls of urban joint family and 50 urban nuclear family. Thus, altogether 400 students studying class VII of rural and urban middle schools were selected randomly. The school under study was located in Madhubani and Darbhanga districts of Bihar. The age range of children was 11-13 years with mean age Of 12.0 years.

TOOLS USED

1. Personal data sheet has been developed by research scholar.

2. The Junior Eysenck Personality Inventory (J.E.P.I) developed by Eysenck & Eysenck (1964).

PROCEDURE

The above mentioned tools in printed form were administered on middle school children (boys and girls) as per the instructions given the manual. After tabulating the data, the data were given statistical treatment to test the hypothesis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The comparison of mean neuroticism scores of different groups of subjects were done through t-ratio. The observed results are presented in table-1.

Family	Group	N	Mean	SD	SE	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Joint Family	Rural high income boys	37	11.70	3.60	0.59	0.15	1.39	0.26	0.36	0.93	2.88**	0.49	0.06	0.26	0.78	0.81	0.80	0.29	
	Rural high income girls	39	11.56	4.37	0.70		1.40	0.40	0.44	0.02	2.86**	0.60	0.22	0.08	0.87	0.88	0.66	0.20	
	urban high income boys	42	12.74	3.03	0.47			1.23	0.36	2.18*	2.10*	0.74	1.39	1.71	0.66	0.02	1.68	0.90	
	Urban high income girls	50	11.90	3.48	0.49				0.26	1.09	2.84**	0.34	0.13	0.49	0.58	0.71	0.96	0.41	
	Rural low income boys	13	12.23	4.83	1.34					0.92	1.71	0.06	1.01	0.51	0.05	0.40	0.89	0.48	
	Rural low income girls	11	10.82	2.48	0.75						3.81**	1.13	1.01	0.69	1.67	1.40	0.11	0.21	
	Urban low income boys	8	15.13	2.95	1.04							2.02*	3.13**	3.08**	2.48*	1.50	2.90**	2.02	
Nuclear Family	Rural high income boys	37	12.14	4.04	0.66								0.46	0.75	0.20	0.47	1.11	0.53	
	Rural high income girls	44	11.75	3.59	0.54									0.69	0.76	0.78	0.86	0.32	
	urban high income boys	45	11.49	3.85	0.57										1.09	0.98	0.65	0.17	
	Urban high income girls	50	12.30	3.46	0.48											0.38	1.31	0.64	
	Rural low income boys	13	12.77	4.26	1.18												1.28	0.77	
	Rural low income girls	6	10.67	2.80	1.14														0.27
	Urban low income boys	5	11.20	3.70	1.65														----

* Significant at 0.05 level

**Significant at 0.01 level

The results contained in Table – 1 indicate that the combination of joint family structure, low income urban locale and male sex prepares ground for the development of neuroticism, for the boys of urban joint families with low income were significantly more neurotic than other group of subjects. Boys of urban joint family of high income group differ significantly from girls or rural joint family of low income group in Personality traits of neuroticism. In joint families the number of earning members in lesser than these dependent on them. Hence the income is distributed among the family member and become insufficient for everyone who creates anxiety, frustration and consequently, neuroticism.

Besides, urban crowded and competitive environment itself exerts strain and stress over its residents causing neuroticism. The greater vulnerability of urban males to neuroticism reveals the fact that urban adolescent boys face and feel the problem of uncertain career and prosperity than adolescent girls in general and rural boys in particular. The adolescent girls are comparatively less neurotic because of the fact that they feel more security in family under the protection of parents, guardians and, after marriage, under the protection of husband and in-laws. Moreover, poverty itself appears to be one of the more salient factors causing malnutrition, depression and anxiety, which in the long run develop neuroticism.

The data were further analyzed to the number and percentage of high and low neurotic in relation to family structure, sex and locale. The results are presented in Table – 2.

Family	NO.	% of high extravert	NO.	% of low extravert
1. Rural joint family (Boys)	9	18%	16	32%
2. Rural joint family (Girls)	10	20%	19	38%
3. Urban joint family (Boys)	17	34%	12	24%
4. Urban joint family (Girls)	10	20%	17	34%
5. Rural nuclear family (Boys)	20	40%	18	36%
6. Rural nuclear family (Girls)	7	14%	18	36%
7. Urban nuclear family (Boys)	8	16%	15	30%
8. Urban nuclear family (Girls)	14	28%	16	32%

The figures contained in table – 2 makes it clear that there were greater number of low neurotics in girls of rural joint families and greater number of high neurotics in boys of rural nuclear families. These results can be interpreted in terms of responsibility diffusion. In rural joint families the girls' child has to share few house hold chores and the responsibilities are distributed and diffused among other members of the family. This system provided more relief from tension and anxieties as well as neuroticism on the other hand boys of rural nuclear families have to take and share more responsibilities which contribute more amount neuroticism. J. C. Coleman (1976) comments that hardest hit by economic and employment problems are those at the bottom of the social ladder who are already handicapped by poorer education, poorer nutrition, more broken or unstable families, overcrowding, inadequate and feeling of helplessness and of rejection by the larger society.

CONCLUSION

In the light of the results obtained and interpretation the following conclusion are drawn:

1. Boys of urban joint families with low income were significantly more neurotic than other group of subjects.
2. Boys of urban joint families of low income group were found to be more neurotic and girls of rural nuclear families of low income group were found to be less neurotic.

3. Girls of rural joint families were greater number of low neurotic and greater number of high neurotics in boys of rural nuclear families.

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