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Factors influencing gender stereotyping among adolescents

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Abstract

Gender stereotypes are the generalized beliefs about the characteristics and qualities attributed to men and women in society. The aim of the present study is to scrutinize empirically the factors those influence gender stereotyping among adolescents of Haryana state between the age group of 17-19 years. Employing the random sampling technique the study was conducted in Hisar district of Haryana state where one Government and one private school were selected from rural area and urban area. From each of the four selected schools of rural and urban area of Hisar, 25 boys and 25 girls of 17-19 years were selected, which constitutes a total of 200 adolescents. Self-prepared schedule was used to delineate socio-personal variables. Gender stereotyping among adolescents was assessed by developed and standardized Gender Stereotyping Inventory. Gender stereotyping among adolescents was significantly associated with academic class, parental variables and socio economic variables of adolescents.

Keywords: Gender stereotyping, adolescents

Introduction

Gender stereotyping is broad category that reflects our impression and beliefs about females and males. All stereotypes (whether gender, ethnicity, or other groupings based) refer to the image of a typical member of a particular social category. Gender stereotyping is divided into four dimensions that are in form of traits, physical characterization, behavior and occupations. Stereotypes results to labels such as soft or hard. Women may be labeled “soft” and men “hard” However, once labels are assigned, they are remarkably difficult to abandon. Many stereotypes are however so general and ambiguous (Almiskry *et al.*, 2009) ^[1]. The phenomenon of gender stereotypes needs to be countered in multiple areas: in laws and practices, mind-sets of people, justice systems, media and education, in different organizations and public authorities, in enterprises, and in individuals.

Gender stereotyping and gender role formation were established and inculcated in the institutional network, social interaction, and social relationships especially in family. Gender socialization, differential familial environment, and parents’ differential role with children influences the gender stereotyping and gender role formation (Muhammad *et al.* 2015) ^[10].

Adolescence is a critical developmental period when individuals change physically and socially, and experience role transitions. Behm-Morawitz and Mastro (2008) ^[4] found negative stereotypical beliefs and attitudes among adolescents due to the impact of gender roles portrayed in movies.

Variation in gender roles were observed according to age groups as the gender role assumptions change over generations. Smaller cultural differences also replicated in gender role assumptions (Basu *et al.* 2010) ^[2]. It was found that gender stereotyping can influence the adolescents’ self-concept and academic achievement. Gender stereotyping among females deprives the usage of their rights and privileges they were supposed to enjoy (Igbo *et al.* 2015) ^[5]. Among the participants maximum percent of adolescents experienced a moderate level of gender discrimination a minor percent experienced severe gender discrimination. Age, residence, subject that they pursue and education of fathers were found significantly associated with gender discrimination (Smitha *et al.* 2017) ^[11].

Gender stereotyping are the assumptions about an individual that how to behave as per their gender. Keeping in view the above facts, the present investigation was undertaken to delineate the factors influencing gender stereotyping among adolescents.

Methodology

The normative survey method is adopted for the study.

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Population and sampling

From each of the four schools of rural and urban area of Hisar district, 25 boys and 25 girls of selected Government and Private Senior Secondary Schools (class 11th and 12th grade) were included in final sample.

Sampling

Random sampling used to select the sample.

Nature of data

Quantitative data was used in this study.

Tools for data collection

An inventory consisting of masculine, feminine and neutral characteristics was developed and pre-tested to study the gender stereotyping among adolescents. Personal and socio-economic variables were measured using the self-prepared schedule.

Statistical analysis

Means, S.D., t-values has been calculated to find out significance of difference between means of two factors. Correlation was calculated to delineate the factors affecting gender stereotyping.

Results and Discussion

Factors affecting gender stereotyping among adolescents

1. Association of personal variables with gender stereotyping

Association of personal variables with gender stereotyping is displayed in the table 21. The results revealed significant association of academic class with gender stereotyping $\chi^2 = 6.41^*$ at $p < 0.05$ level of significant. The table shows that majority of adolescents having moderate and high (61.49% and 87.50%) levels of gender stereotyping were of 12th standard. This can be interpreted that as adolescents move to higher classes shows comparatively higher level of gender stereotyping while adolescents of lower classes show low level of gender stereotyping.

Table 1: Association of personal variables with gender stereotyping

Personnel variables	Level of gender stereotyping				χ^2 value
	Low (n = 02) f(%)	Moderate (n = 174) f(%)	High (n = 24) f(%)	Total (n = 200) f(%)	
Age					
16 ⁺ - 17 years	0 (00.00)	67 (38.50)	11 (45.83)	78 (39.00)	2.19
17 ⁺ - 18 years	01 (50.00)	70 (40.24)	09 (37.50)	80 (40.00)	
18 ⁺ - 19 years	01 (50.00)	37 (21.26)	04 (16.67)	42 (21.00)	
Sex					
Male	02 (100.00)	86 (49.43)	12 (50.00)	100 (50.00)	2.02
Female	00 (00.00)	88 (50.57)	12 (50.00)	100 (50.00)	
Class					
11 th	01 (50.00)	67 (38.51)	03 (12.50)	71 (35.50)	6.41*
12 th	01 (50.00)	107 (61.49)	21 (87.50)	129 (64.50)	
Ordinal position					
First born	02 (100.00)	82 (47.13)	12 (50.00)	96 (48.00)	4.19
Second born	00 (00.00)	62 (35.63)	10 (41.67)	72 (36.00)	
Third born	00 (00.00)	18 (10.34)	02 (8.33)	20 (10.00)	
Fourth born and above	00 (00.00)	12 (6.90)	00 (00.00)	12 (6.00)	

2. Association of parental variables with gender stereotyping

The data under Table 22 establishes the association of parental variables with gender stereotyping among adolescents. From the analysis it was observed significant differences with adolescents paternal education ($\chi^2 = 15.40^*$), paternal occupation ($\chi^2 = 13.82^*$), maternal education ($\chi^2 =$

23.79*) and maternal occupation ($\chi^2 = 17.70^*$) at 0.05 level of significance. It can be interpreted that majority of adolescents whose parents were educated up to senior secondary (62.50%) showed high level of gender stereotyping, also adolescents whose fathers engaged in business (50.00%) and whose mothers were housewives (83.33%) had high level of gender stereotyping.

Table 2: Association of parental variables with gender stereotyping

Parental variables	Level of gender stereotyping				χ^2 value
	Low (n = 02) f(%)	Moderate (n = 174) f(%)	High (n = 24) f(%)	Total (n = 200) f(%)	
Paternal education					
Illiterate	01 (50.00)	23 (13.22)	01 (4.17)	25 (12.50)	15.40*
up to primary	01 (50.00)	21 (12.07)	00 (00.00)	22 (11.00)	
Primary- senior secondary	00 (00.00)	105 (60.34)	15 (62.50)	120 (60.00)	
Graduate	00 (00.00)	25 (14.37)	08 (33.33)	33 (16.50)	
Paternal occupation					
Labour	01 (50.00)	32 (18.39)	04 (16.67)	37 (18.50)	13.82*
Farmer	00 (00.00)	65 (37.36)	04 (16.67)	69 (34.50)	
Service	00 (00.00)	42 (24.14)	04 (16.67)	46 (23.00)	
Business	01 (50.00)	35 (20.11)	12 (50.00)	48 (24.00)	
Maternal education					
Illiterate	01 (50.00)	47 (27.01)	01 (4.17)	49 (24.50)	23.79*

up to Primary	01 (50.00)	34 (19.54)	00 (00.00)	35 (17.50)	17.70*
Primary- senior secondary	00 (00.00)	77 (44.25)	15 (62.50)	92 (46.00)	
Graduate	00 (00.00)	16 (9.20)	08 (33.33)	24 (12.00)	
Maternal occupation					
Housewife	01 (50.00)	161 (92.53)	20 (83.33)	182 (91.00)	
Labour	01 (50.00)	04 (2.30)	01 (4.17)	06 (3.00)	
Service	00 (00.00)	09 (5.17)	03 (12.50)	12 (6.00)	

3. Association of socio-economic variables with gender stereotyping

Table 23 projects association of socio-economic variables with gender stereotyping among adolescents. Results disclosed that significant differences were found for various factors like caste category ($\chi^2 = 13.59^*$), type of school ($\chi^2 = 16.97^*$), medium of instruction ($\chi^2 = 14.55^*$), number of siblings ($\chi^2 = 13.33^*$), residential area ($\chi^2 = 12.14^*$) and

income ($\chi^2 = 10.20^*$) at 0.05 level of significance. Results revealed that majority of adolescents belong to general category (79%), private schools (87%), were instructed in English (75%), had 1or 2 siblings (79.17%), from urban area (83.33%) also maximum percent of adolescents whose family annual income was Rs.150000 to Rs.300000 (50.00%) show high level of gender stereotyping.

Table 3: Association of socio-economic variables with gender stereotyping

Socio economic variables	Levels of gender stereotyping				χ^2 value
	Low (n = 02) f(%)	Moderate (n = 174) f(%)	High (n = 24) f(%)	Total (n = 200) f(%)	
Caste category					
SC	01 (50.00)	26 (14.94)	01 (4.17)	28 (14.00)	13.59*
BC	01 (50.00)	72 (41.38)	04 (16.67)	77 (38.50)	
General	00 (00.00)	76 (43.68)	19 (79.17)	95 (47.50)	
Type of school					
Government	02 (100.00)	95 (54.60)	03 (12.50)	100 (50.00)	16.97*
Private	00 (00.00)	79 (45.40)	21 (87.50)	100 (50.00)	
Medium of instruction					
Hindi	02 (100.00)	142 ()	06 (25.00)	150 (75.00)	36.72*
English	00 (00.00)	32 ()	18 (75.00)	50 (25.00)	
Family type					
Nuclear	02 (100.00)	117 (67.24)	16 (66.67)	135 (67.50)	0.98
Joint	00 (00.00)	57 (32.76)	08 (33.33)	65 (32.50)	
Number family members					
Small Upto4	01 (50.00)	53 (26.50)	12 (50.00)	66 (33.00)	4.26
Medium 5-7	01 (50.00)	83 (41.50)	08 (33.33)	92 (46.00)	
Large above 8	00 (00.00)	38 (19.00)	04 (16.67)	42 (21.00)	
Number of siblings					
1-2	01 (50.00)	70 (40.23)	19 (79.17)	90 (45.00)	13.33*
3-4	01 (50.00)	95 (54.60)	04 (16.67)	100 (50.00)	
Above 5	00 (00.00)	09 (5.17)	01 (4.17)	10 (5.00)	
Residential area					
Rural	01 (50.00)	95 (54.60)	04 (16.67)	100 (50.00)	12.14*
Urban	01 (50.00)	79 (45.40)	20 (83.33)	100 (50.00)	
Annual income					
Up to 150000	02 (100.00)	91 (45.50)	07 (29.17)	100 (50.00)	10.20*
150000-300000	00 (00.00)	72 (36.00)	12 (50.00)	84 (42.00)	
Above 30000	00 (00.00)	11 (6.32)	05 (20.83)	16 (8.00)	

Discussion

There are different factors which have direct and indirect influence on gender stereotyping and career choices among adolescents.

The findings of the study reported that factors influencing gender stereotyping among adolescents revealed significantly association of gender stereotyping with academic class, parental education and occupation, residential area, caste category, type of school, medium of instruction, number of siblings and family annual income of adolescents. Study of Smitha *et al.* (2017) [11] assessed gender discrimination among adolescent girls and found significant association of gender discrimination with age, residence, subject that they were pursuing and education of father. Basu *et al.* (2017) [3] determined that although father influences the socialization of their children, mother plays a key role in socializing

adolescents according to their gender. The results also revealed that these gender roles were reinforced by physical violence. McQuaid & Bond (2004) [9] found fathers' occupation as influential factor for future career choices among pupils. Muhammad *et al.* (2015) [10] from his findings recommended that family, familial environment and parental differential role with children factors play key role in gender socialization children.

Kagesten *et al.* (2016) [6] showed that gender stereotypic behaviour were embedded among adolescents in different cultural settings and also found that parents and peers play key role in developing such behaviour. Kulik (2005) [8] showed that adolescent boys stated more gender stereotyped role perceptions than girls, and also found that background variables, mothers gender role stereotypes, and the personality variables are the key predictors of gender role stereotypes

among adolescents. Muhammad *et al.* (2015) ^[10] concluded that gender stereotyping and gender role formation were established and inculcated in the institutional network, social interaction, and social relationships especially in family. The study also indicated that gender socialization, differential familial environment, and parents' differential role with children influences the gender stereotyping and gender role formation.

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Limitations

- The study couldn't assess adolescents from different cultures, as the study was conducted only in one district of the Haryana state. This may have consequences for generalization of the findings.
- The study focused only the adolescents of 16-19-year age group where the gender stereotyping could differ for other age groups also.

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