

Research Article

Effects of Fathers Absence on Socialization & Personality Development of Children

Shalini Singh

Counsellor at IGNOU, Ghaziabad, India.

I N F O

E-mail Id:

shalushona18@yahoo.com

Orcid Id:

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2124-9599>

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A B S T R A C T

For years researchers had concentrated on the mother's role in child rearing practices. Much past psychological research upto the 70's was devoted to investigating the mother's role. As a result until the first half of the 20th century there was not much literature on the father's role in socialization of children. The sudden interest in the importance of fathers can be attributed to major social changes which acquired in the 20th century. One major reason for the interest is fathering may be attributed to the women's movement which stimulated re-evaluation of the existing concepts about roles of men and women. The present study was undertaken to find out the effect of fathers absence on socialization and personality development of children. Another major objective of the study was to find out the difference in personality development of children of father absent families of states of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Keywords: Personality Development, Socialization, Parenthood, Social Development

Introduction

Parenthood is the task of caring for and rearing of children. Being a parent is emotionally very satisfying but on the other hand parenthood is the most difficult and responsible stage of family life cycle. Moreover, parenthood is the most crucial stage involving crucial responsibilities. The concept of parenthood goes much beyond the biological functions. It has a social role too and to play it effectively, one needs to learn consciously the values and practices approved by the society and also those which are consistent with the new knowledge that advances in sciences have revealed to us.

A child attachment with his parents expresses itself in many ways. The young boy for example may prefer to play with his father but demand the company of his mother when he is ill. Effective fathers should have knowledge about their children as it can help then in creating the conditions under which their child can best blossom as well as it also help

them in recognizing the situations, where their children need guidance and intervention.

The psychological significance of the role of fathers was not realized so fathers were neglected by researchers for a long time. Fathers were ignored because of their absence from home and the inconvenience to get their interaction & cooperation for research purpose. Responsible fathering means, a father's active involvement in meeting his children's financial, physical and emotional needs. Fathers have expressed that being a father made him a stronger and better person and that it reminded him of the joys and experiences of his childhood. A father's free and positive involvement with his children from infancy is directly related to the child's well being and cognitive and social development. In addition, father's involvement and nurturance are positively associated with children's social competence, internal locus of control and the ability to empathize.

It is also true that both boys and girls need masculine models to get a realistic and balanced picture of men. It has been observed that boys who missed their fathers showed hyper masculine behaviour. If the fathers are present when children are small, children have the opportunity to take in a more realistic model of masculinity. Thus both boys and girls need to have a masculine role model.

The literature on the role of fathers and effects of father's absence on personality development of children is meagre. It points to the need for further research studies on this topic. Thus the present study was formulated with following objectives.

- To study the effects of father's absence on socialization and personality development of children.
- To compare socialization and personality development of children in the state of Uttar Pradesh with children of state of Rajasthan.

Material and Methods

The study is based on survey research method. A descriptive research design was used. Locale of the study was in Uttar Pradesh the city of Kanpur and Unnao and in Rajasthan. Sujargarh, Ladnes, Sikar and Jhunjhuni.

Samples were chosen in a systematically random way so that chances of the operation of probability can be utilized (Best and Kahn 1986). The total sample of the study comprised of 500 children in the age group of 9-12 (late childhood) and their fathers and mothers. Of the 500 respondents 300 children and their mothers and fathers were randomly selected from the four cities of Rajasthan state of which 150 were of father present families. The remaining 200 children were selected from the two cities of Uttar Pradesh of which 100 were of father absent and 100 were of father present families.

Title I. Role of Father in Socialization and Personality Development among the Children in Late Childhood having Father Present and Father absent Families in U.P.

Families	No. of respondents	Role in Socialization		Personality Development		Statistics Values		
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	r	t	P
Father Present	100	102.66	12.15	76.91	2.39	+0.199	2.010	<0.05
Father Absent	100	102.30	4.57	77.06	1.96	-0.013	0.129	>0.05

Title 2

Families	No. of respondents	Role in Socialization		Personality Development		Statistics Values		
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	r	t	P
Father Present	150	104.54	8.26	76.41	2.74	+0.076	3.493	<0.05
Father Absent	150	109.71	6.95	77.75	1.77	+0.089	1.087	>0.05

Measuring Tools and their Description

- A self constructed questionnaire for children of both groups is father absent and father present children.
- CPQ – Children's Personality Questionnaire by Kapoor and Rao (1972) Hindi adaptation of Cattell's personality test (1957) for father absent and father present children.
- A self constructed questionnaire for mothers of non-resident father families.
- A self constructed questionnaire for fathers living with the families.

Result and Discussion

Table 1, shows the correlation between the role of father in socialization and personality development among the children in late childhood, having father present and father absent families in Uttar Pradesh. Statistically, significant and positive correlation was observed between to the role of father in socialization and personality development among the children in late childhood having father absent families in U.P.

Table 2, shows role of father in socialization and personality development among the children in late childhood having father present and father absent families in Rajasthan.

Statistically, significant and positive correlation was observed between the role of father in socialization and personality development among the children in late childhood having father present families in Rajasthan while positive and insignificant correlation was observed between the role of father in socialization and personality development among the children in late childhood having father absent families Rajasthan.

Table 3, shows the mean score of socialization in children of father present families in U.P. and Rajasthan.

Table 3

State	Respondent	Socialization		Statistics Values	
	No.	Mean	SD	t	P
U.P.	100	102.66	12.15	1.456	70.05
Rajasthan	150	104.54	8.26		

Table 4

State	Respondent	Socialization		Statistics Values	
	No.	Mean	SD	t	P
U.P.	100	112.30	4.57	3.283	<0.05
Rajasthan	150	109.71	6.95		

Statistically no significant different in socialization of children of father present was observed between Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. This means that socialization of children was not significant in father present families of both the states but socialization of children of Rajasthan was slightly higher as compared to socialization of children of U.P., this is because in Rajasthan due to more joint families and Purdah System and slightly low education of mothers almost all mothers were non-working mothers and remained at home so they could devote full time to socialization of children in Rajasthan.

Table 4, shows mean score of socialization in the children of father absent families in U.P. and Rajasthan.

Statistically, significant difference in socialization of children of father absent in Rajasthan and father absent in U.P. was observed but socialization of children in father absent families in U.P. was slightly higher as compared to children of father absent families in Rajasthan. The reason for this difference in education of mothers who performed both roles of mother and father. Most mothers were working mothers who could give little time to socialization of children. They were also more aware of children's growth and development and could guide them better in every aspect of development as compared to mothers of father absent families of Rajasthan slightly higher in children of father present families in the state of U.P. as compared to the mean scores of children of Rajasthan state.

Table 5

State	Respondent	Socialization		Statistics Values	
	No.	Mean	SD	t	P
U.P.	100	76.91	2.39	1.486	<0.05
Rajasthan	150	76.41	2.74		

Table-6 shows mean score of personality development in the children of father absent families in U.P. and Rajasthan.

Table 6

State	Respondent	Socialization		Statistics Values	
	No.	Mean	SD	t	P
U.P.	100	77.06	1.96	2.892	<0.05
Rajasthan	150	77.75	1.77		

Conclusion

Statistically, significant difference in personality development of children of father absent families was found between the states of Rajasthan and U.P. which means there was personality difference in children of both the states but personality development of children of Rajasthan was slightly higher than father absent children in U.P. The reason for this difference is mothers of children of father absent families in Rajasthan are mostly under graduates of joint families observing Purdah and are constantly under pressure of grandparents and other family members to observe customs and families traditions strictly and use authoritarian disciplining techniques. These factors lead children under control and maintain good behaviour.

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