

# Self Esteem and Peer Group Relationship of Adolescent Children in Single Parent Families

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## Abstract

As the family and its structure are in a descend form, children, especially adolescents may feel a sense of insecurity due to lack of proper care and support from their own imbalanced family system and other socialising agents. Therefore, the present study re-researches on the Self Esteem and Peer Group Relationship of adolescents from the Single parent families. This descriptive study emphasizes on Quantitative research, where the primary data was collected through the Survey Method using a questionnaire. The data was collected from two schools in Kollam District, Kerala, one from an aided school and another Government school and the sample size is 51 students from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> standard. The tool consists of socio-demographic data, Peer Group Relation Scale by Hudson and Self Esteem Scale by Rosenberg. The study result shows as there is significant relation between Self Esteem and Peer Group Relationship of Adolescents from Single parent families.

**Key words:** *Adolescents, Peer Group Relationship, Single parent family and Self Esteem.*

## Introduction

Sociological works on the family have long been dominated by two themes: Universality and Decline. The theme of Universality attests that the family exists in every single human culture. For various convincing reasons, individuals can't live as single animals nor would human be able to raise their young without anyone else as mother feline do. As a result, individuals live consistently in bunches containing grown-ups of both genders as well as children named as family and membership in the family are dictated by lineage and sexual associations<sup>(1)</sup>.

The second subject in present day sociological work on the family is that, regardless of the universality of the family in current social orders, the family is in

decline. Families are currently withered and unsteady, and the advanced family is progressively incapable to accommodate the prosperity of its individuals<sup>(1)</sup>. Since, the family structure, preferably, gives a feeling that all is well with the world and security that is important for children. Be that as it may, the modern family is progressively unfit to accommodate the prosperity of its individuals. One of such change in the family structure is single-parent family. Single child rearing is a significant social issue that can make significant affect on a child's life. Consequently when there is a breakdown in the family structure, it might tremendously affect a child and their capacity to work usually.

In this modern world, children had to face and cross more complex and impersonal life today. Havighurst explained that the different types of problems faced by adolescents stem from pubescent development, their emotional life, the social groups with which the individual interacts, and other biological and cultural changes<sup>(2)</sup>. Therefore any mishandlings in life's primary system itself will cause an interruption in an adolescent's life. Such malfunctions in the primary social system may even cause adverse effect on a child's mental

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development and wellbeing. This develops low self esteem in children and more attachment towards other social groups.

Now a day adolescents spend most of their time with their age group than they do with their parents and other adults. As children enter into adolescence, the amount of time they spend with peers' increases. Peer groups become the most important socializing influence on adolescent behaviour and values. Peer relationships serve as a bridge as adolescents move away from their parents and toward independent adult functioning<sup>(3)</sup>.

Along these lines, the motivation behind the current study is to figure out the adolescents in single-parent families who have been separated from their parents either by the passing of a parent, separation or divorce. This investigation further attempts to understand the relationship between the self – esteem and the peer group relationship.

### **Method and Material**

This descriptive study emphasizes Quantitative research and Survey research design has been adopted to understand Self Esteem and Peer Group Relationship of adolescents from a single-parent family. The primary data for the study was gathered using a questionnaire using Survey Method.

The data was collected from two schools in Kollam District, Kerala, one an aided school and another Government school. Samples for the study were easily identified from the Snehapoorvam Scholarship list (Kerala Government Scheme for children of a deceased parent) and with the help of class teachers (identify children of parents who are either divorced or separated) and the sample size is 51 students from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> standard.

The tool consists of socio-demographic data, Self Esteem Scale by Rosenberg, Peer Group Relationship Scale by Hudson. Statistical analysis of the present study was done by simple percentage and chi-square using SPSS 20 Version.

### **Result**

The gathered information from the review was based on their Socio-segment profile, level of Self-

regard and on the size of Peer bunch relationship. The discoveries from the examination show that 80% of respondents in the investigation are from the age of 13 to 14 years. Henceforth most of them are concentrating in eighth and 9th grade. 71% of the respondents are young ladies and the greater parts among them are 67% among them are between 13-14 years. About half (51%) of the respondents are from semi-urban, 31% from urban and the rest 18% from a rustic setting. In Semi-urban settings, 88% are females while the rest are guys.

To recognize the idea of schools that the juvenile from a solitary parent family picked, the analyst gave accentuation on the kind of schools. From the discoveries, it was recognized that the greater part (59%) of the respondents are from Government School. Among those concentrating in a Government school, it is discovered that there is an equivalent extent of male and female. Alongside these fundamental subtleties, a request about their vehicle of guidance was likewise included, where the outcome appeared as 2/3rd of the respondents is from English medium schools.

Further, the researcher concentrated on the familial and parental details of the respondents like their relationship with the caretaker, work status, the explanation behind being a solitary parent, family type and the number of siblings. Measurable proof of the above details plainly communicates a rated show of caretaker's status as follows: respondents having mothers as guardian scores a level of 58.8%, though those having father are 41.2%. Because of the parent's work status, 82% showed their single-parent as employed, though 18% are jobless. The move-in present-day days family framework likewise reflected in the research, which is featured in discoveries where 67% have a place with Nuclear family and 23% live in a more extended family. Be that as it may, all the more shockingly 10 % of the respondents asserted themselves as living in a joint family.

On breaking down the explanation behind the parent's single status, the prime explanation was passing of the life partner (74.5%), while divorce and separation came as the second and third explanation separately. Respondents were likewise enquired about the number of siblings they have, therefore, 21.6% of respondents uncovered themselves a single child, where 66.7% of

respondents make them kin and 11.8% have 2 and more kin.

The respondents were asked to rate their parents' attitude towards them in certain situations like whether his/her parent is proud of them, do parent takes an interest in their activities, do his or her parent listen when the child talks, whether the parent is accessible when the child needs, whether the child can talk to his/her parent about the things that really matter and if the child can comfortably share his or her thoughts and feelings

The respondents were approached to rate their respondents' mentality towards them in specific circumstances like whether his/her parent is proud of them, do parent takes an interest in their activities, do his or her parent listen when the child talks, whether the parent is accessible when the child needs, whether the child can talk to his/her parent about the things that really matter and if the child can comfortably share his or her thoughts and feelings. All the respondents collectively evaluated "Always" as their reaction to the parents' attitude, which just implies that their single parent deals with them.

**Table. 1: Showing level of Self Esteem and Peer group relation**

Self Esteem	Percent	Peer group relation	Percent
Low	29.4	Low	25.5
Medium	47.1	Medium	52.9
High	23.5	High	21.6
Total	100.0	Total	100.0

From the table.1, we can infer that nearly half (47%) of the respondents have only below an average level of Self-esteem & whereas, on the other hand, 52.9% of the respondents shows above an average level of Peer group relationship.

**Table. 2: Test of association shows that there is a significant association with the type of the school respondents studied and the involvement of parent's interest in child's activities with the Self-esteem.**

Sl.no	Variable	Value	df	Sig.	
1	Type of school	Govt	7.719 <sup>a</sup>	2	.021
		Aided			
2	Parent's interest in child's activity	Never	9.508 <sup>a</sup>	4	.050
		Sometimes			
		Always			

86.6% of respondents studying in the Government school showed a low level of self-esteem. Therefore the association test of Self-esteem with the type of school shows .021 level of significance.

Meanwhile, the level of parent's interest in the child's activities showed more than 50% of positive response which figures .050 level of significant association with Self Esteem and Parent's Interest in Child's activities.

**Table. 3: Test of association shows that there is a significant association with the medium of instruction in school, no of siblings and respondents' comfort for sharing their thoughts with parent with Peer group relationship.**

Sl.no	Variable		Value	df	Sig.
1	Medium of instruction in school	Malayalam	10.628 <sup>a</sup>	2	.005
		English			
2	No of siblings	0	10.575 <sup>a</sup>	4	.032
		1			
		2 & above			
3	Comfort in sharing their thoughts with the parent	Never	11.755 <sup>a</sup>	4	.019
		Sometimes			
		Always			

60% of the respondents study in English medium, 66.7% of respondents has 1 sibling and 78.4 % of respondents always feel comfort in sharing their thoughts with the parent. In whole, respondents in the study showed only an average level of Peer group relationship with .005, .032 and .019 level of significant association with Medium of instruction in school, No of siblings & Comfort in sharing their thoughts with the parent.

### Discussion

The period of pre-adulthood is viewed as the frailest condition in every youngster's life. In consonance with this, a pre-adult from a solitary parent family can be considered as twofold powerless. Through this investigation, the researcher makes an endeavour to contemplate the Self-Esteem and Peer group relationship of the immature respondents' by causing them to assess their own life after the nonappearance of a parent. From the study results, it is been distinguished that almost 50% of the respondents have a place with the age of 13 and 14 years, who are concentrating in their eighth and ninth grade. Among the respondents, female members are lion's share in number and they abide in a semi-urban setting. Almost 60% of the respondents in this study are from the government school, concentrating in English medium and the sexual orientation extent in this area stayed equivalent.

According to census 2011 there are about 27 million female headed household in India which constitute nearly

10.9% of all household<sup>(4)</sup>, there are 13, 58,698 single ladies in the state, while, in the 2011 statistics report, there is an ascent by 39 percent of single ladies in India <sup>(5)</sup>. Like these reports, this investigation additionally features a comparative sort of result by demonstrating an expansion in the level of female overseers because of the demise of companion, separation and partition. Alongside these socio-demographic details, respondents were approached to rate their parents' contribution and effect on their day by day life, which indicated a pleasingly moderate reaction.

The test of association of the respondents' social and demographic details with Peer group relationship demonstrated a wide range of significant association with both. 87% of respondents studying in the Government school showed a low level of self-esteem, where girls outnumbered the boys. Though the study has not given more emphasis on the socio-economic conditions of the respondents, it can be construed that low self-esteem among the children with single parents studying in Government school is a result of low socioeconomic status, poor family background and environmental factors when compared to the students of aided schools<sup>(6)</sup>. The level of single parent's interest and involvement over children's activities showed a positive response to their parenting which can be tinted as an excellent reply to sabotage the conventional societal thought towards single parenting which is considered to be a social taboo or a curse.

Also while considering their Peer Group Relation, 60% of the respondents concentrate in English medium, 66.7% of respondents have 1 kin and 78.4 % of respondents consistently feel comfort in offering their musings to the parent. In entire, respondents in the examination indicated just a normal degree of Peer group relationship with significant association with Medium of instruction in school, No of siblings & Comfort in sharing their thoughts with the parent.

### Conclusion

Children who are at their pre- adulthood stage are very much vulnerable and unstable in handling healthy relationships and psychological wellness. So when it comes to the matter of children from single parent family, the risk doubles. For a positive quest towards this dormant social and psychological condition, they need unique consideration and support from Family, School, Communities and Government for a better Psycho-Social and Economic background. These support systems, where he / she involve may help the child to create a safe environment for a better future.

**Ethical Clearence** : Taken from Human Ethics Committee, Dept. of Social work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore, India.

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