

Research Article

Level of Social Maturity among Late Adolescents in a private college at Coimbatore District.

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Abstract:

Social Maturity is an inevitable aspect in the life of an individual as well as in the society. Adolescent is a developmental stage where an individual encounter changes physically, emotionally and psychologically, which produces personal and social problems as they go ahead in their life. Some of the social problems arise within their peer groups due to their poor adjustment or inability to handle their emotions properly. Social maturity is an ability to behave in an appropriate manner according to the standards and norms set for an individual. When a child shows immature behaviour, it's ignored, or society won't mind it whereas every adolescent is expected to behave in a matured manner and when one fails to behave in an acceptable way according to the age, fellowmen's neglect them. The main aim of this study is to examine social maturity among the college students. Four null hypotheses were formed to examine the social maturity of the late adolescents. A total of sample of 769 students was selected using stratified proportionate random sampling method. A well-structured Social Maturity scale (1998) developed by Dr. Nalini Rao (1998) – 90 items with three dimensions such as (1) Personal Adequacy, (2) Inter – Personal Adequacy, (3) Social Adequacy, used as a tool to collect data along with Socio – demographic details. Karl Pearson test, Z – test was used to analyse the data. The finding of the result indicates that there is a significant relationship between number of family members with social maturity of the respondents. In addition to it there is a significant difference between gender and native background of the respondents and their social maturity.

Key Words: Social Maturity, Late Adolescents, College students

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Introduction:

The word adolescence is Latin in origin, derived from the word *adolescere*, which means “to grow into adulthood” which is the period of moving from immature childhood into mature adulthood. Adolescence is a critical stage of human development during which rapid changes of physical, psychological and social occur in an individual’s life. It is the transition stage between childhood to adulthood and this period marks the end of childhood and lays the foundation for adulthood. According to Erick Erickson, during this period every adolescent search for a self-identity. During this period adolescents encounters many social problems as they try to fit in the society or their peer group. These problems occur when adolescents fail to adjust with the social group. At this stage the family members, neighbours, peers, society expects them to behave in a matured manner and to learn the ways of appropriate behaviours. They are demanded for social maturity, the ability to understand the social norms and customs that are there in the society. Social maturity helps them to adjust to handle the stress and frustration while they try to live a satisfactory life.

Late Adolescents:

According to UNICEF, the transition period referred as teenage years, youth or puberty, taking place roughly between the ages of 10 to 20 years which can be broadly divided into 2 stages. Early Adolescents: (10 – 14 years) – in this phase a kid is not yet matures but considered that he is no longer a kid. Physical challenges start takes place in this period. Late Adolescents: (15 – 19 years) – close to adulthood to have a strong identity and more stable interests. Adolescents are more cautious about becoming independent, secure, strives hard to become successful and to fit in the peer group.

Social Maturity:

The term Social Maturity comprised of two words, Social means “living in community” which means an individual is constantly adjusts himself to the social world he lives in and Maturity means a stage where an organism has attained full development or completion of the process of growth. Therefore, Social Maturity refers an individual attain maturity in his social relationship. Social maturity is an ability to behave in an appropriate manner according to the standards and norms set for an individual. It is the progression of developing appropriate attitudes for personal, interpersonal and social tolerability of an individual which enables them to function effectively in the society as socially matured adolescents.

According to Robert Kegan and his book called *The Evolving Self* (1983), social maturity is nothing but how well people are able to understand the nature of the social world they live within, which is what enables us to function well as healthy adults. He said if people are able to understand what others are thinking or feeling, new layers of social and emotional development occur.

Hurlock says that a socially mature individual imitates not so much because he approves the existing patterns of behaviour or because of fear of others but to realise that each individual must be willing to fit into the pattern approved by the group as a whole.

Review of Literature:

Anitha. P, Umesh Samuel Jebaseelan, (2017), *Study on Social Maturity of the Adolescent College Students in Colleges at Tiruchirappalli*. The study was an attempt to find out the significant relationship between social maturity and various demographical parameters such as gender, age and the achievement motivation of the adolescent students. The researcher adopted descriptive research design, as the study focused on describing the characteristics of the population. A total of 300 respondents were selected using multi stage random sampling method (Bryman, A., 2004) from 23 colleges of Aided Autonomous Arts and Science College of Tiruchirappalli. Social Maturity Scale developed by Dr. Nalini Rao (1986) was used to study the level of social maturity and its influence on gender, age and their achievement motivation of the respondents. The finding of the study showed that there is significant difference between gender and overall social maturity score. Achievement motivation has a significant relation with over all social maturity of the respondents. Furthermore, there is no significant difference between age and overall social maturity of the respondents.

Arul Lawrence A.S., Jesudoss I. (2011), *Relationship between Social Maturity and Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary School Student*. The main goal of this study was to examine the relationship between social maturity and academic achievement of higher secondary school students. The researcher has used random sample method and selected 320 higher secondary school students, amongst 160 were boys and 160 were girls, studying in Tirunelveli District. The results of the study clearly indicate that, there is a significant difference between boys' and girls' students in relation to social maturity and academic achievement. Girls are found to have more Social Maturity and Academic Development than Boys. It was found that students from rural are more socially mature than urban students. From the study it was found that there was

no correlation between academic achievement and social maturity among higher secondary school students.

Statement of the Problem:

The phase of adolescence is a cross road between childhood to adulthood and they are expected to “to grow” and “to build up” themselves emotionally and socially at this stage. A dynamic, vibrant, enthusiastic adolescent can bring huge positive change to the society and to the progress of the Nation. According to “World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision” Population of United Nations Population División, India has the World’s highest number of 10 – 24 years olds youth, with 242 million. A country’s ability and a potential for growth is determined by the size of its youth population. So late adolescents play a major role in the welfare of the society and ultimately for the growth of the nation. Though science have proven that in the adolescents stage their brain is not fully matured, we cannot leave them with that reason for their crimes committed or for not behaving well. During this adolescent period, an individual move from being a member of the parent’s family to a full member of the society. Therefore, the researcher’s aim was to find out what a society which is the second home for them can do to these late adolescents to develop their emotional and social maturity. For this reason, the researcher decided to do a study among college students to study whether there is immaturity prevails and if there are any such cases of socially and emotionally immature and unhealthy adolescents can become a threat for the society and at the same time can bring shame to both college and family.

Scope and Significance of the study:

Consider the food web which clearly shows that there is an interconnection between the living organisms and it depends on one another for their survival. Aristotle said, “Man is a Social Animal by Nature”, No human being has fully developed holistically by living in isolation. Human beings cannot afford to live alone. We all need one another to cheer us up, to motivate, encourage, to share our joy, happiness, tough moments with others. The present curriculum does not provide adequate practices to improve these qualities and the behaviours of an individual rather pays much importance for the cognitive development. The present study focuses on the late adolescents doing their UG courses in a private college in Coimbatore district. The results of this study will help the concern people to pay much attention to the adolescents to develop their social and emotional maturity who in turn will become the great source of growth of our country.

Objectives of the study:

- To know the relationship and difference between the socio demographic characteristics and social maturity of the respondents.
- To provide suggestions to improve the social maturity of the respondents.

Null Hypothesis:

- There will be no significant relationship between the number of family members and over all social maturity of the respondents.
- There will be no significant relationship between monthly income of the family and overall social maturity of the respondents.
- There will be no significant difference between gender and native background of the respondents and their social maturity score.

Research Methodology:

Keeping in view the nature and the purpose of the study, the researcher adapted descriptive survey method to investigate the study. The researcher applied stratified random sampling technique to select the sample of 769 adolescents, out of which 486 students were boys and 283 students were girls, aged between 17 – 19 years, of UG I & UG II years from a private college at Coimbatore. Social Maturity scale (1998) developed by Dr. Nalini Rao – (90 items) with three dimensions such as Personal Adequacy, Inter – Personal Adequacy, and Social Adequacy, was used to collect data.

Analysis and Interpretation:

Hypothesis: 1- There is a significant relationship between the number of family members and over all social maturity of the respondents.

Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation between number of family members of respondent and overall social maturity.

S. No	Variable	Correlation Value	Statistical Inference
1	Number of family members and overall social maturity	-.081*	P < 0.05 Significant

The Karl Pearson correlation table explains the possible relation between number of family members and the social maturity of the respondents. It has proven statistically that number of family members has a significant relationship with social maturity score. This could be further understood that the number of family members does influence the social maturity of the respondents. Logically discussing the result, when there is an increase in the number of family members, the individual compares himself with other siblings, feels insecure, not loved much which may affect their social maturity level. Hence the hypothesis is proved.

Hypothesis: 2- There is a significant relationship between monthly income of the family and overall social maturity of the respondents.

Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation between monthly income of family and overall social maturity of the respondents.

S. No	Variable	Correlation Value	Statistical Inference
2	Monthly Income of the family and overall social maturity	.214**	P < 0.05 High Significant

According to the presented table, it is revealed that there is a highly significant relationship regarding the monthly income of the family of the respondents and their social maturity score. It is statistically proven that the monthly income of the family members does impact the social maturity of the respondents. Family financial resources plays a major role in the cognitive and emotional wellbeing of the respondents. According to the above table, when there is low - income in the family, it affects the adolescents’ relationship with the fellowmen because there is always a conflict within their minds that they are not able fit in themselves with the peer group which ultimately creates low self- esteem, not feeling confident oneself, withdrawal from the peer-group. Hence the hypothesis is proved.

Hypothesis: 3- There will be no significant difference between gender of the respondents and their social maturity score.

Difference between the respondents’ gender and overall social maturity.

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error mean	Statistical inference
	Male	486	272.7449	28.14881	1.27686	Z= -3.345

Social Maturity						P < 0.01 High Significant
	Female	283	279.8163	28.34029	1.68466	

According to the above table, it is statistically proven that there is high significant difference between the respondents gender and their social maturity score. The mean score of the respondents reveals that the female respondents have high level of social maturity than the male respondents. Arul Lawrence A.S., Jesudoss I. (2011), studied social maturity and academic achievement among higher secondary students and found that girls have more social maturity and academic achievement than boys. Scientifically, it is proven that females attain cognitive and emotional maturity faster than the males and our society demands that girls should show and behave matured way than the boys. Hence the hypothesis is accepted.

Hypothesis: 4 - There will be no significant difference between native background of the respondents and their social maturity score.

Difference between the respondents' native background and overall social maturity.

Variable	Native Background	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Statistical Inference
Social Maturity	Rural	251	270.0478	26.94360	1.70067	Z= -3.713 P < 0.01
	Urban	518	277.9151	28.76491	1.26386	High Significant

It is statistically confirmed from the above table that there is a high level of significant difference between the native background of the respondents and their social maturity level. It clearly shows that the mean score exposes that respondents from urban area have high level of social maturity, whereas the rural area respondents have low level of social maturity. Suvankar Biswas (2018) studied social maturity among higher secondary school students and found that there is no significant difference in social maturity of students with respect to their native background. Communication plays a major role in interpersonal relationships. Among college students, the mode of communication is English, adolescents from rural area may find difficult

to develop a good rapport. Poor communication skills, low self-confidence, fear, way of conducts and behaviours, learning ability, may be a stumbling block for them to establish a good relationship with others. Hence the hypothesis is proved.

Suggestions:

- Teachers play a major role in developing social skills among the adolescents in college.
- College Administrators can plan for activities in college to improve the social maturity of adolescents
- Parents can be given awareness about this, so that the home environment of the students would be pleasant and that will help an individual to grow as a healthy adolescent with self-confidence, social and emotional matured person.
- Parents can also make sure that the adolescence have a good relationship with their siblings.
- Administrators can be suggested that, this shall be introduced as a part of the curriculum, so that the adolescent would be able to grow holistically in their living environment.
- Administrators and teachers can be encouraged to pay more attention to students from rural background and low family income, to motivate them and conduct programmes to develop their skills and talents, which will help them to emerge as a confident individual who in turn will begin to have good relationships with others.
- The teachers can encourage the students to get themselves involve in extracurricular activities, sports which in turn will help them to become a good team player, to handle issues, in that way they will be helped to grow in all social aspects.

Discussion and Conclusion:

Present study was an attempt to find out the significant relation and difference between social maturity and various demographical characteristics such as number of family members, monthly income of the family, gender and native background of the respondents. It is found that there is a significant relationship between number of family members and monthly income of the family of the respondents and their level of social maturity. It demonstrates that when the family environment is unpleasant, unfair treatment between the siblings by the parents, unmet needs of the adolescents in the family, excessive control does affect the social maturity

of the adolescents. Furthermore, the study shows that there is a significant difference between gender and native background of the respondents and their social maturity level. This study concludes that the social maturity of the adolescents would be higher when there is a pleasing, lovable family environment, promising, encouraging, pleasant college environment.

According to Ministry of statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India (2017), India is expected to have 34.33 % share of youth in total population by 2020. A healthy adolescent is fully confident about oneself and have a sense of self respect that eventually reflected in his interpersonal relationship with others and feels that socially responsible. Family, College and Society plays a vital role in moulding an adolescent holistically, so that they can improve their actions and behaviours to create their own future and live a life to its fullest.

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