ABSTRACT

Psychosocial Correlates of Wellbeing among Adolescents in Institutional and Parental Care is a study on a sample of 504 adolescents (15-19 years) from the City of Kochi, Kerala of which 252 were in institutional care and 252 were in parental care. With regard to adolescents in institutional care the researcher used census method and adolescents in parental care were selected using the stratified disproportionate sampling method. The study investigated about five basic and very significant psychosocial correlates or factors for the wellbeing of adolescents such as security, self-esteem, adjustment, academic interest and general wellbeing among adolescents in institutional and parental care. The relationship of these variables among themselves as well as their association with socio-demographic background variables of the respondents was also investigated. Based on the objectives, hypotheses were generated to find out the relationship between the subject variables and also the relationship between the socio-demographic characteristics and the subject variables. The research design adopted was the descriptive cum diagnostic design. A self-prepared interview schedule and standardized scales/inventories were used for the collection of data. Statistical tests such as mean, standard deviation, median, chi-square, ‘z’ test, one way analysis of variance, and Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation were applied to interpret the data to draw meaningful inferences. Major findings of the study and the conclusions drawn from them indicate that the adolescents in institutional care have significantly higher level of insecurity and adjustment problems, and lower self-esteem and general wellbeing when compared with their counterparts in parental care. The study also revealed that there was a significant correlation between the subject variables. Implications of the study with general recommendations are given.