CHAPTER - 4

PRESENT STUDY

The present study aims at throwing some further light on the commonly accepted hypothesis that parent-child relationship has influence upon the nature and growth of child's personality. In view of the method of enquiry adopted here the adolescents only have been advisedly taken as subjects instead of younger children. The hypothesis is checked from a new angle by the use of a technique which has not been tried by other workers in this country.

The term parent-child relationship here signifies the behaviour of the parents toward their child, that is, how parents behaved in different situations in their dealings with their growing child. During the entire period of childhood the child remains in close touch with his parents. So paternal behaviour has significant impact on the child's mind and this impact in turn moulds the child's personality to a great extent. The entire personality of the adolescent is not the focus of this investigation.

The scope of this study has been narrowed down to only bipolar dimension of personality, viz. introversion-extroversion. The selection of this dimension of personality is admittedly somewhat arbitrary, but not wholly so. Theoretically, any trait or any number of trait could be brought under the purview
of this study. But in view of practical difficulties of covering many traits and of the special advantage of the chosen trait this study has been restricted to the examination of the parental influence on it.

The present investigator thought this selection of dimension of extroversion-introversion is not without some justification. This study is carried out with the so called normal young persons as subjects. In practical dealings one comes across oftener than not two varieties which William James (58) had described as 'tough minded' and 'tender minded', and which bears resemblance to the classification on 'extroversion' and 'introversion' made later by Jung (63) from his clinical observations. Broadly speaking a typical introvert is shy, reserved, fond of solitude. He is of brooding nature and feels embarrassed if made the object of attention. His preference is to work independently alone as far as possible. In contrast the extrovert is said to be good natured, self-confident, given to socializing and easily embarrassed. Popularly regarded the introvert is a thinker while the extrovert is a man of action. This division is rather conventional and does not mean that the two groups have no common features. In fact, except in extreme cases, there is an area of overlapping qualities. Statistical investigation does not point to a clear cut distinction between extrovert and introvert. It has been found by Heidbreder (52),
Gilliland (38) and some others (xxx) that "when objective personality tests, previously validated on the basis of the responses of the so-called true introverts (schizophrenics) and so-called true extroverts (manic-depressives), are applied to reliable samplings of normals we get practically the same normal curve distribution typical of testing programmes in other fields. The fact is that most individuals stand somewhere between the extremes. They do not qualify as either extremely introvertive or extremely extrovertive; they are 'ambivertive or composite'. Nevertheless we can say, as Thorpe (104) maintains, since many people conform to Jung's types, the terms applied to them are useful in describing overall attitudes. It may be noted that near similar results are found with respect to Allport's ascendance—submission—trait test. Individuals of the composite types show in themselves dominance of introvertive or extrovertive qualities in them to some degree, and hence for all practical purposes they may be dealt with as belonging to the two 'types'.

Because of the fact that introversion and extroversion are so broad based in nature and that these are important constituents of personality providing wide coverage if may be taken that determinants of these are by and large also determinants of an individual's personality. In other words, the indication of personality trend as seen in terms of introvertive or extrovertive dominance may be said to reflect the picture of total
A review of the literature and earlier investigations on the relationship between parental behaviour and the personality of the child suggests that there exists some relationship between these variables. The present study is designed to see how far this is true in our country in the current social economic condition following growth of industrialization. So this study is really an addition to the 'validity generalizing' research. Moreover, it seeks to throw light on the relationship between the adolescent boys and both the parents and the influence of this relationship on the latter's personality. The earlier studies were restricted mainly to the mother-child relationship and its relation with the child's later personality. The above mentioned trait of personality of the adolescent boys was assessed by a personality inventory constructed by the present researcher. The parental behaviour was measured by the adapted version of Roe-Siegelman PCR questionnaire (81). Assessment of parental behaviour was taken on the said questionnaire from the son and both the parents themselves. The present investigator in order to reduce the possible contamination by some extraneous variables preferred not to depend only on the boys' report on the one of two variables mentioned earlier. Assessment of those variables were taken from a second source so that the two measures be more independent of each other.
SUBJECTS:

The subjects of this study consisted of students of the higher secondary schools of Calcutta. Generally there are three categories of schools, (1) those admitting only the students belonging to mostly higher socio-economic level, (2) those meant for mostly the students of very low socio-economic strata and (3) those where mostly the students from middle socio-economic class are found. From these schools six (two from each category) have been selected for the present investigation. Since the present study is concerned with both the parents and their son, students who were brought up by the parents were taken into consideration. First, the number of students fulfilling those two requirements was found out from each school. Then 100 students were randomly selected from these students. The table for random number consulted was of Snedecor's (95). The breakdown figures are given in the Table I. Their age ranged between 15 and 17 with the average of 14.75 ± 1.71.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Higher Socio-economic group</th>
<th>Middle Socio-economic group</th>
<th>Lower Socio-economic group</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of students in Classes IX to XI</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of students having both the parents and brought by them</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of students randomly selected</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
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Measurement of the two variables:

The personality trait introversion-extroversion was measured by the personality inventory constructed by the present researcher (the description of the procedures of the construction of the personality inventory has been given in Chapter - 3). The subjects themselves filled in the inventory.

Parental behaviour was assessed by the adopted Bengali version of Roe-Siegelman PCR questionnaire. The detailed description of the PCR questionnaire and the procedures followed for its adaption have been given in Chapter - 6. The boys rated their parents’ behaviour. The parents themselves also assessed their behaviour toward their boys.

Collection & Calculation of Data:

Data were collected from the boys with the help of the personality inventory and the PCR questionnaires. Both the parents were interviewed individually and their reports of how they viewed themselves as acting toward the target boy (their son) on the Roe-Siegelman were taken.

Then simple correlation was done between:

1. Child’s introversion-extroversion trait and parental behaviour assessed by the child.
2. Child’s introversion-extroversion trait and parental behaviour assessed by the parents themselves.
3. Two measures of parental behaviour assessed by the child as well as by the parents.