The study reported in this thesis was conducted with a view to understand children's competence as a product as well as a correlate of children's perception of their environment and of their parents' child-rearing behaviours; and their parents' child-rearing attitudes. Children's competence was assessed by a group-administered check-list which yielded self-assessed and peer-assessed competence scores. Children's perception (a) of environment was assessed with an instrument consisting of 125 questions encompassing 25 dimensions of their rearing environment namely, familial, social, economic, cultural, community, etc. and (b) of their parents' behaviours was assessed by a questionnaire consisting of 40 statements measuring 10 dimensions of parental behaviours applicable to both parents, separately. Both instruments were filled up by the children themselves. Parental child-rearing attitudes were measured using a questionnaire completed by the selected children's parents. Parents' attitudes towards 15 different child-rearing issues were measured. One hundred adolescents (boys and girls) of Grades 7, 9 and 10 and their parents participated in this investigation.

The environment variables formed three clusters on the basis of their intercorrelations: family's socio-economic status (SES), cultural-educational stimulations available at home, and psychological climate of the home. The children perceived their fathers and mothers similarly but positively, which was found to be a supportive factor for the development of competence. Parents' attitudes revealed certain interesting qualitative aspects of parent-child relationship in the Indian socio-cultural context. Children's self-perception of competence and their peers' perceptions were found to be similar and congruent. Although a number of environmental, and parental behavioural as well as attitudinal variables correlated positively and strongly with children's competence; results strongly suggest that the utilization of these towards the development of personal competence largely depended on children themselves.