ABSTRACT

In absolute numbers, India is home to more adolescents (around 243 million) than any other country (UNICEF, 2012). This enormous number of potent and energetic youth should be shown right path to utilize these natural resources. Role of family is of paramount importance in shaping and moulding the thoughts and personalities of the adolescents. The structure as well as functioning of the Indian family system is undergoing lot of changes due to westernization and globalization leading to alterations in the child-rearing and socialization processes and the interactions between family members. In view of this, the present study is taken up with two main objectives:

(1) To examine the impact of home environment on the psychosocial competence, resilience and vocational aspiration of adolescents.

(2) To study the influence of demographic factors such as age, sex, SES, order of birth, number of siblings, primary educational background, religion, caste and type of family of adolescents on their psychosocial Competence, resilience and vocational aspiration.

Based on these objectives the following two main hypotheses are formulated and tested:

Hₐ₁: Adolescents belonging to Low, Moderate and Highly favourable home environment (Dimension wise) groups differ significantly among themselves in their psychosocial competence, resilience and vocational aspiration

Hₐ₂: Demographic factors such as age, sex, SES, order of birth, no. of siblings, primary educational background, religion, caste and type of family of adolescents significantly contribute to their Psychosocial Competence, Resilience and Vocational Aspiration
Further, from the two main hypotheses many specific hypotheses are also formulated, tested and verified.

A quota sample comprising of 600 adolescents (300 boys and 300 girls) in the age range of 14-16 years is taken for the study from seven high-schools of Dharwad City, of Karnataka State, India. The instruments used for the study are Home Environment Inventory by K.S.Misra (1989), Psychosocial Competence Scale by Ajitha Dindigal and Vijayalaxmi Aminabhavi (2007), Resilience Scale (Shorter version by Neil and Dias, 2001) originally developed by Wagnild and Young (1993), Occupational Aspiration Scale by J.S. Grewal (1975).

The collected data which were complete in every respect are scrutinized, scored as per the instructions given in the manuals. The raw scores are transformed into ‘T’ scores. The following statistical techniques are applied to analyze the scores and verify the main as well as specific hypotheses: ANOVA, Scheffe’s Post Hoc Test and Step-wise Multiple Regression Analysis.

With regard to Ha1, the following conclusions are drawn on the application of ANOVA and Scheffe’s Post Hoc Test that the adolescents belonging to Low, Moderate and High home environment groups differ significantly among themselves in their psychosocial competence, resilience and vocational aspiration.

It was also observed that that out of several dimensions of Home Environment, moderate to high amount of Protectiveness, Conformity, Reward and Nurturance are found to be advantageous in the development of various life skills as well as resilience and vocational aspiration of adolescents.

Secondly, Low to moderate amount of social isolation, deprivation of privileges and rejection at home are found more conducive in the development of various life skills.
In relation to Ha₂ the results of the Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis revealed that the adolescent boys have significantly lower psychosocial competence compared to adolescent girls. Adolescents having two siblings have shown significantly lower psychosocial competence compared to adolescents having no siblings and having one sibling. Adolescents belonging to Brahmin caste have significantly higher psychosocial competence compared to adolescents belonging to other castes.

It is also observed that adolescents belonging to age 14 years have significantly less resilience compared to adolescents of 15 and 16 years. Adolescents belonging to nuclear family have significantly high resilience than those adolescents coming from joint families. Adolescents having two siblings have significantly lower resilience compared to adolescents having no siblings and having one sibling. Adolescents belonging to middle-lower class have significantly lower resilience compared to upper and upper-middle class adolescents.

Adolescents belonging to upper class have significantly higher vocational aspiration compared to middle and lower-middle class adolescents. Adolescents who are only children have significantly higher vocational aspiration compared to those having siblings. Adolescents belonging to Lingayat caste have significantly higher vocational aspiration compared to adolescents belonging to other castes.

Sample consisting of exclusively urban students, studying in the private English medium schools, lack of representation from the lower socioeconomic status group are some of the limitations of the study. In spite of these limitations, the present study has certain implications for parents, teachers and policy makers and enlightens the public about the desirable as well as undesirable aspects of home environment.