

Preface

The society appreciably accepts persons who are socially learned and who deal competently in different social situations. Social learning is a highly valued concept that helps a child to inculcate values like self-confidence, self-esteem, language skills positive attitude and thus thereby making the child socially competent person.

Recent and previous researches have suggested that development of social competence secures success into adult life. Social competence deficits of individual may increase over time, along with feelings of social anxiety and inadequacy. Social competence develops over time and can be observed and measured in different manner. It not only affects social development of a person but the other important aspects of a person's life also. Social competence takes different forms at different ages, with the developmental course, revealing increasingly diverse and complex personal and social capacities.

In the life of person adolescence is the age of profound physical, mental and social change. It is the time when adolescents reach out of secured home environment to get exposed to the world and their competency may help them to meet the challenges in their way.

Our society has assigned parents the primary responsibility for ensuring health, well-being and positive development of children. Social scientists have documented that parents are important agents of socialization, and that variations in parental socialization practices contribute to the quality of social competence their children develop. Further, parents often serve as the conduit by which other environmental or contextual factors, such as culture and socioeconomic conditions, influence children's development.

Aspects of socialization context that have reached considerable attention from psychologists and other developmental scientists are family structure and family climate. The organization and structure of the family unit, particularly as it pertains to the number of adults involved in the children's upbringing and the relationships shared by these adults result in the environment of the family.

Social scientists have conducted several studies that address the issue of variations in the development of children's social competence across family types and family climate. It is a scientific challenge to make comparisons of child's development across diverse family types given the multiple life circumstances that may differ across the range of families.

The pace of the changes in the structure of the society is very fast and it is affecting the components of the society and many factors are contributing to it.

The purpose of this research work was to study that in the changing scenario of family structure and family climate whether and which variables/factors influence social competence of adolescents.