The child grows in a family which belongs to a group. Thus the child starts with biological foundations and grows up in a social set-up. People, particularly the parents and other members of the family largely determine the way in which child develops. It is thus a period of continuous change. During this period there is a strong bond between the mother and the child. The total family unit (mother and father) plays an important role in terms of meeting his needs and responding to his demands. The personality advances rapidly with changes in perception, emotion and behaviour. Desires, values, interests and attitudes communicated by the family begin to mould his personality.

The most important characteristic feature of the environment of a child is the mother and father. In some cases, it may be the person who fulfills most of his basic needs and spend more time with him. If the key person provides a sheltered training, the child can become a healthy member of the society. It is a miniature society in which the child makes his first attempt at adaptation and it tends to persist throughout life. Childhood is a process of gradual transfer of responsibility from parent to child. This process requires a secure and stable family set-up with reasonably consistent and constant figures. For healthy development child must be exposed to a range of emotions and situations keeping in touch with reality.

The importance of parent child relationship in shaping the character as well as the production of psychopathological deviations in childhood should not be underestimated.

Parent child Relationships

Undoubtedly parent-child relationships influence the whole development of children.
The child has no innate tendency to love the parents and it is unlikely that mother love or father love is innately determined. In the nature of the situation, however, the child should soon come to react positively to the parents because they are sources of food and comfort. On the parental side, there is strong cultural pressure of manifest love and affection for the child, even if inwardly the parent recognizes that the child is unwanted. In the process of caring for the child's physical needs, the parent is also likely to have a variety of pleasant experiences and to develop a real affection if none was present before.

Adequate manifestation of affection is important for the personal integrity of the infant. The concept of security stresses the idea that the child's perception of his universe should be friendly. If he encounters too much unpleasantness, he will evolve a view of life as threatening and hazardous. If on the other hand, if he receives adequate care, cuddling and attenting, he will look upon people as sources of gratification and will see the world as safe and interesting place to explore.

Maternal deprivation also effects the child behavior. Mother spends more time with the child than the father and show her affection for child more openly. She exerts a great influence than the father. A low level of maternal affection prolongs the period of child dependency. It is as if the child who is unsure of his mother affection needs continuous reassurance of her concern and is thereby bound to her for aid approval and attention. Overprotection tends to produce over dependency in the child.

Even though the father has relatively less influence than the mother, his influence is still great. An autocratic father can cause faulty development in the child as
readily as permissive father whose disciplin is ineffectual. The difficulty of establishing independency depends in great part on prior and continuing parent-child relationships.

**Parental attitudes**

Parental attitudes also influence the way parents treat their children fundamentally is dependent upon the parent’s attitudes. The parent child relationships is a number of factors have been recognised as influencing parental attitudes towards children such as;

1) **Overprotectiveness**

Parental over-protection consists in excessive physical contact of the parent and child, prolongation of infantile care, prevention of the development of self-reliance and excessive prental control. Over protective parents allow no competing interest to interfere with their parental duties, they reduce their other interests to a minimum.

One of the most serious effects of over-protectiveness is that it fosters over-dependency in the child. Nervous tendencies, such as excitability, restlessness and lack of concentration are common among overprotected children, often such children are obese and have an immature look. Their characteristic personality pattern is manifested by a low level of ego strength, aspiration and frustration tolerance. They show withdrawing reactions, lack emotional control, and openly refuse responsibility. They seem to be afraid to grow up, they have no confidence in their abilities; they are easily influenced by and depend upon the group and they also tend to be excessively sensitive to criticism.
2) Permissiveness

Permissive parents accept the child’s early ideas and ambitions instead of forcing his own upon him, he encourages the child to play with other children, makes the child feel accepted and strong and shows tolerance for and understanding of the child’s weaknesses.

Permissiveness not only the children but parents also. Permissive parents report that their lives are disrupted by their children’s noisiness, that their privacy is often ignored and that their attempts to limit or control their children’s activities are resisted. If permissiveness is not carried to the extreme of indulgence however, it will lead to better parent-child relationships and a healthy family life.

Children from homes which encourage reasonable freedom have been found to be resourceful, co-operative self reliant and well adjusted in social situations. They show perseverance and can assume responsibilities. If, on the other hand, parents are indulgent, the child has difficulty making social adjustments. He is selfish, demanding and expects constant attention, affection and service. He responds to denials of his wishes or to disciplin with impatience, out bursts or temper tantrums.

3) Rejection:

Parental rejection need not necessarily mean overt rejection. It may be characterized either by nonchalance and a general atmosphere of unconcern for the child’s welfare or by active dominance, excessive demands and conspicuous hostility. Frequently in rejection, the impression is created that the parent is overprotective.
Parental rejection jeopardized normal security feelings, undermines the child’s self-esteem and induces feeling of helplessness and frustration, which can permanently disable the child in his adjustment. Among young children who feel rejected enuresis, feeding difficulties, nail-biting and other nervous mannerisms are common. Aggression, cruelty, lying, stealing, rearing seeking attention, praise and unnecessary help and showing off are the some of the other characteristics.

4) Acceptance

Parental acceptance is characterized by a keen interest in and love for the child. The accepting parent not only wants the child and in many cases planned for him but also does not find child care trying or difficult job. The accepting parent insists on the importance of the child in the home and develops a warm emotional relationship with him.

Parental acceptance is expressed in different ways depending upon the emotional maturity of the parents. Emotionally mature parents aim at the development of an independent individual and do all they can to achieve this goal, emotionally immature parents by contrast are neurotically attached to their child and to try mould him to suit their own standards. The accepted child is generally better socialization, cooperative, friendly, loyal, emotionally stable and cheerful.

5) Domination

The child who is dominated by one or both the parents is honest, polite and careful, but is also likely to be shy, docile, self conscious, submissive and sensitive. He feels inadequate, inferior, confused, bewildered, and inhibited. He is easily led and
dominated by his family but not by his peers. As he grows older, he is likely to feel cheated to be afraid that others will cheat him, and to develop a sucker complex - a constant fear that others will impose on him or take advantage of him.

6) Submission to child

Just the opposite to the dominating parents are the submissive ones, who permit their children to dominate the home. If possible, the child's every wish is gratified, even against the parents better judgement. The child bosses his parents and treats them with little or no respect.

When parents permit themselves to be dominated by the child, he often becomes disobedient and irresponsible. He defies authority and is unmanageable, aggressive, stubborn, antagonistic and careless. At the same time he is independent and self-confident. Frequently he has an exaggerated opinion of himself and is uninhibited in his boasting.

7) Favoritism

Inspite of the typical claim by a parent that he loves all his children. Certain children are more likely to parental favorites than others. The child who perceives that he is the favorite learns that he can do and say things that the less favored siblings would probably be punished. For the child who is not the favorite, likewise, perceives his status and resents the privileges given to the favorite. The favored child shows a great desire to please the parent while his siblings become hostile and rebellious.
The sex of the child influences the pattern of parental behavior from the moment of the child's birth while mothers in the higher socio-economic groups are reported to be more warm and accepting than mother in the lower socio-economic groups all mothers give preferential treatment to boys.

A child who is bright, who does good work in school, who is popular and who is ambitious for future achievement is likely to become a parental favorite: the more successful the child the more willing the parent is to make sacrifices for him, even if this entails slighting some of the other siblings. At the opposite extreme children who are adicapped, either physically or mentally usually receive more parental attention and affection and their siblings conclude that they are the pets.

8) Authoritarian

The children whose parents are authoritain or autocratic and see little need for communication and interaction with their children are more frequently characterized by lack of confidence, dependence and lowered self esteem. They are likely to be less creative, less intellectually curious and less flexible in approaching every day problems. They are more likely to feel that their parents' rules and principles are unreasonable or wrong.

9) Parental Ambitions

Often without taking into consideration the child's abilities or interests, over ambitious parents strive to have the child satisfy thwarted ambitious of their own lives. Almost all parents measure their child's achievements against some ideas. The most the parents expect their children to become autonomous and the more they encourage and
train them for this, the more autonomous they will become. As children grow older, parental ambitions include educational, social and athletics and by adulthood, financial and marital success.

The child is well aware of what his parents expect of him. When he does not live up to their expectations, he feels inadequate and becomes quarrelsome, disobedient, irresponsible and resentful. As a result of such attitudes, he frequently does poor work in school or engages in fantasy and day dreaming.

Parental care and control

Parental care is often assumed to have an effect upon infant behavior, but experimental verification of the assumption is still only sketchy. The development of child's personality is influenced in countless ways by the environment in which he lives. Large number of children show maladjustment in the sense that they are seriously troubled and their way of life is restricted. One feature of a child suffering from personality disorder is that his efforts to meet problems of the present are distorted by emotional after effects of unsolved problems in his past.

Literature regarding the parental care, as such may not be available. However, studies dealing with parental attitudes, personality and ideal home environment and their effect upon the growing child are a reflection of these child rearing styles. The adult standards by which a child's behavior is judged vary considerably.

Abbe (1958) reported that high maternal restrictiveness is associated with emotional disturbance among children. A harmonious home in which consistent,
democratic child care procedure predominate would appear to be desirable goal towards which all parents should strive in terms of their own happiness as well as that of their children. Well adjusted parents have a high probability of rearing well adjusted children.

Symonds (1932) found differentiation in a number of behaviours between children of dominating parents and those of submissive parents. The former were better socialized as a rule their behaviour was more acceptable, more conforming to the group. They seemed to be more interested in school work. Yet they tended to be sensitive, shy, self conscious, seductive, retiring and submissive as compared with children who were given more freedom by their parents. The children of submissive parents inclined toward disobedience.

Present study

A child, in almost all societies, is regarded as someone to be cherished, a tender and precious human being who must be nurtured and protected. A child’s development in worthy of careful attention and scientific study.

A greater number of emotionally disturbed children than reported are probably going unrecognized, unprotected and undetected. A number of studies have shown that parental health, (both physical and mental) is correlated with the emotional disorders of children. The subject of emotional problems has assumed great importance in the last three decades all over the world. Various types of studies have been conducted by several research workers in the developed as well as developing nations. But the incidence of emotional problems especially among the children is still a matter of speculation, mostly based on small scale studies.
A number of parental variables such as care and control, parental attitude, marital adjustment, mental health and some socio-demographic conditions etc. seem to have important contribution in the formation of habit patterns and adjustment. Children's performance on intelligence tests and achievement in school are likely to be influenced by the above mentioned variables.

In most of the studies mothers have been considered as solely responsible for healthy and unhealthy development of the children. The role played by fathers varies greatly from family to family. In terms of time spent with the child, the mother has more opportunities than the father to influence the psychological growth and behaviour of her offspring. The human infant is largely dependent on the mother as she satisfies his basic biological needs and thus the infant develops emotional dependence on her. It is generally believed that mother plays a far more important role than father in attempting to change the child's ongoing behaviour.

In the present times, this view is changing gradually. The traditional large and joint families are now being converted into small and nuclear families. As a result, role of father has changed greatly. Mother's role remains, by and large, the same as it has been earlier. Only in some instances the total number of hours spent by mothers and fathers, individually has changed. Now father, especially, in the educated circles also spend more time with their children than before (Lytton, 1980). In the new social perspective where both the parents are working, the roles of mother and father are diluted. There may be difference in how the father spends time with children, the activities shared etc. For some aspects of bringing up, the role of mother is dominant, whereas, for others father's role may be dominant as in play particularly rough and
tumble play. Including fathers in any investigation dealing with children seems important considering their influence as models, on the development of their children. Father is an integral member of the family who has an equal impact on child’s development. Indian studies in this context have been limited.