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Dr. Vinay Kumar Sharma

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HOME ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL COMPETENCE : A CORRELATIONAL STUDY

□ Yanthunbeni T. Kithan*
Dr. B. Venkata Rao**

ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to investigate the relationship between home environment and social competence of adolescents. Descriptive survey method of research was used. Data was collected using Home Environment Inventory developed and standardized by the investigator and Social Competence Scale (SCS) by Dr. Latika Sharm and Dr. Punita Rani (2013). A representative sample of 800 (400 boys and 400 girls) XIIth students were drawn from schools located in Kohima and Dimapur districts of Nagaland using simple random sampling technique. Findings of the study revealed positive, low significant relationship between home environment and social competence among the adolescents at the higher secondary level. The result revealed that there exist positive, low significant relationship between all the dimension of home environment -nurturance, family cohesion, academic involvement, social connectedness, parental expectations, career & guidance support and parental warmth with personal adequacy, interpersonal adequacy and communication skills dimensions of social competence.

Keywords : Adolescents, Dimensions, Home Environment, Social Competence

INTRODUCTION

The home is a primary social unit in an organisation that plays an important role on child's development. Across cultures, families have been represented as the most significant institution for nurturing, caring and socializing children. Through the process of interaction at home, the child identifies himself and certain set of behaviour is developed in him that defines his character and is reflected in his action in later life. Children acquire certain behavioural traits through observation and modelling and therefore a harmonious home environment is crucial for optimum development of an individual. Findings of research studies have indicated that children raised in loving, caring, secure, consistent and stable home environment has a greater probability of developing well socially, psychologically, physically, emotionally and morally. (Hurlock, 1997). In contrast, an unhealthy home

environment can have an inimical effect on the child's intellectual social and emotional development including behavioural problems, poor academic achievement and impair language skills.

Social competence is defined as a skill or ability to achieve personal goals in social interactions while making positive relationship with others overtime and across situation (Rubin & Rose-Krasnor, 1992). In simple terms, social competence refers to the ability to handle social interactions effectively. In adolescence, social competence is determined by the social environment in which they live and interact such as family, school and community. Daily activities and interactions with family members train the adolescents in acquiring social norms, negotiating skills and problem-solving abilities through observation and experiences. The extent to which children and adolescents possesses good social skills can influence their personal, academic performance,

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