



MUSLIM ADOLESCENT STUDENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS OPPOSITE-SEX

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Abstract

Adolescence in today's generation has been termed as 'terrible teens'. As in this period there are swings of moods and emotional instability, which affects their overt behavior. Many parents, counselors and teachers find it difficult to handle adolescent child because of the countless problems it presents specially towards opposite-sex member. The investigation was focused on their attitudes towards each other. The boys and girls display different attitudes towards each other. The investigation used survey method to find out the problem in hand. The sample was chosen. In all, Muslim boy and girl students under study were 427. The quantitative data was collected through questionnaire-cum attitude scale and qualitative information was collected through informal interviews and comments. The research indicates that Muslim boys and Girls had a positive attitude towards the opposite-sex.

Key Words: *Adolescence, Attitude, Opposite Sex, Muslim*

Introduction

The investigation was done with purpose of finding out the attitude of Muslim girls towards Muslim boys and vice a versa. Today's adolescent is different from previous generation. The internet, mobile, leaders and mass media has major part to shape to days adolescent. Their beliefs, attitudes, values and thoughts are much different from the previous generation as their exposure to world is much wider than before. As now a day the number of Muslim population is increasingly taking admission in colleges and needs to be studied. In all 20 questions were asked to find out the attitudes with multiple choice answers. The open end questionnaire is provided to students to write their comments which have given in depth insight into the problem at hand. This also supported to evaluate the responses of students. It is also found that religion also has some directives while dealing with opposite-sex hence the restrictive approach towards opposite sex may have resulted into negativity as students could not objectively assessed themselves. The information on stage of adolescence may be helpful in better understanding.

Definition of Adolescence

According to Piaget, "Psychologically, adolescence is the age when the individual becomes integrated into the society of adults, the age when the child no longer feels that he is below the level of his elders but equal, at least in rights... This integration into adult society has many affective aspects; more or less linked with puberty... it also includes profound intellectual changes."

The term Adolescence is derived from the Latin word 'adolescere' which means, 'to grow', or 'to grow to maturity'. Growing to maturity involves not only physical growth but also the attainment of a mature structure, the learning of physical characteristics, mental maturation and the development of secondary-sex characteristics. Mental development involves intellectual, emotional and social maturity. Adolescence is the period of transition from late childhood to independent adulthood. Adolescence may span a period of 10 years where physical and sexual growth is significantly marked. The development of secondary sex characteristics make adolescent get attracted towards opposite-sex. The hormonal change during this period affects their mental stress and emotional instability. Which effects on their attitudes positively or negatively.

During adolescence period peers spend much time together and play an important role in the socialization and development of teenagers. Eisenstadt (1956) Peers contribute a great deal towards socialization and development of the adolescent. Peer groups assist in creating a healthy interaction with the same-sex and opposite-sex members.

Review of Related Literature

General trend shows that during the period of childhood boys and girls do not show special attraction to the opposite-sex. Boys prefer to play with boys involving greater physical activities such as wrestling, fighting etc. and girls prefer to be with girls. On the onset of puberty there often appears a certain shyness and attraction towards the opposite-sex. Sometimes they are also critical of each other another. The psychosocial development generally takes place when the adolescent is in contact with single-sex and opposite-sex. Many years of life is spent in school and junior college in close relationship with peers or friends of same-sex and opposite-sex. The mental development during this stage includes the treatment received by peers of same-sex and opposite-sex members, the belief they develop as they grow up and the positive or negative attitudes they form



about members of opposite sex and the thought process based on the basis of good or bad experiences they get during these crucial stage. The researcher aims to study the student's social attitudes and behavior of the young students.

Harries, D.B. and Sing Chu Tseng (1957) studied children's attitude towards peers and concluded as the majority of boys and girls feel favorable towards their peers particularly those of like sex, at every age. Secondly in general boys are more neutral in their feelings and boy-girl antipathies are caused by girls changing their attitudes towards their peers of the opposite-sex. Most girls mature sexually earlier than boys. Consequently, young adolescent girls may annoy or amuse boys of the same age, refer to as "Silly-girl giggling and nonsense". A girl who has older and younger brothers, however, may be extremely objective in her relations with boys, even during the supposed giggling and self-conscious stage of development. Similarly, a boy who has older and younger brothers and sisters may give little or no evidence of antagonism or aversion to, or show over concern about girls at any developmental stage says Lester D. Crow & Alice Crow(1965)

A very real and positive gain comes to both boys and girls as they grow up together in the same school. They are able to work out a better and more enduring relationship; they develop a capacity for intelligent friendship and they find out that friendliness can exist without familiarity, that boys and girls can help each other without wanting to 'flirt' with each other. They also learn, both the value and the art of co-operation. There is an instinctive unconscious desire on the part of each sex to be at its best in the presence of others.

Mooney, Ross, L, surveyed the problems of high-school students problems by means of a problem check list on 603 students and concluded that the girls at all grade levels led the boys in the mention of problems in the areas of 'home and family' and "Social-Psychological Relations" while the boys led the girls in the areas of "Adjustment to school work" and "The future, Vocational and Educational".

Dixon Marguerite Mcollected information through the question and answer method from 200 girl students' age between 11-18 and found that: Adolescent girls are under the greatest stress between the ages of 14 and 16 when they are beginning to make important contacts outside their families.

Sullivan believed that the satisfaction of interpersonal needs lead to feelings of security, while the frustration of interpersonal needs lead to feelings of anxiety. According to Sullivan, this process is cumulative, such that children who do not have their interpersonal needs met will have difficulty finding security in interpersonal relationships during adolescence.

Erik Erikson's psychosocial view of human development posits that adolescence is the pivotal developmental period for figuring out who you are and what you can become (identity versus identity diffusion). Once this psychosocial crisis has been handled successfully, the young person is capable of entering into a truly intimate relationship during young adulthood

In an evaluation, or attitude towards, the members of the opposite-sex, girls are supposed to lay stress upon the possession of good looks, brawn rather than brains and a 'Smooth line'. Boys are expected by adults to fall for a 'Cute trick' extreme of dress and make-up, as minimum of intelligence and a tendency to be 'Free & easy'.

No doubt friendship provides emotional support in day-to-day activities. A child develops a sense of personal autonomy and achieves self-identity through the continuous feedback received from his friends. Friendship also enlarges the sphere of social interactions.

It is also observed that each sex tends to exert effect on the behavior of the other. They also unconsciously and sometimes consciously behave better in front of the opposite-sex. They get to know each other every day in life at college and learn how the opposite-sex thinks, reacts and what its interests are. While doing so on the basis of their subjective experience both acquire either respect or hatred towards the opposite-sex.

Research questions

1. Does the attitude towards opposite-sex changes as child goes in the stage of adolescence?
2. Does the attitude towards opposite-sex depend upon the sex of the student?
3. Does the attitude towards opposite-sex depend upon the religion of the student?

Objectives

1. To study the relationship between adolescent stage and attitude towards opposite-sex
2. To study the relationship between the sex of the adolescent Muslim student and his / her attitude towards opposite-sex.
3. To study the relationship between the religion of the adolescent Muslim student and his / her attitude towards opposite-sex.



Methodology

The methodology is as follows

Type of The Study

In all three Muslim colleges were selected. Hence sample was chosen. The students were selected from Junior colleges as stage of adolescence is the age of 12 to 17 years age group. The survey method is used to investigate the problem. Tools used are questionnaire-cum attitude scale and informal interviews to collect the data. The adolescents responded enthusiastically.

The independent variables were as follows

1. Sex of the Pupil: Girl/Boy
2. Religion of the Pupil: Muslim

Whereas the dependent variable was: Attitude towards opposite-sex

Additional informal interviews were organized with pupils to have free discussion and comments received by them helped to interpret quantitative data received by questionnaire-cum-attitude scale. This informal interview gave an opportunity to pupils to speak freely about their inner feelings.

Sample of The Study

The sample was selected one on the basis of sex of the pupil and religion

Table 2, Sex of Pupil and Religion

Religion	Boys	Girl	Total
Muslim	189	238	427

Definition

1. Attitude: An attitude is a predisposition to classify objects and events and to react to them with evaluative consistency.

Conclusion

1. It was found that adolescents attitude in childhood period changes towards opposite-sex due to change in secondary sex characteristics.
2. The boys and girls do have different attitudes towards each other.
3. The Muslim boy students feels that presence of girl students helps to maintain better discipline in the class.
4. The Muslim girl students feel that boys treats them with respect and feel less self-conscious.
5. The Muslim boy students think that presence of girls help improve behaviour, social manners and healthy relationship.
6. It was found that boys do feel that girls wear veil (Prada) and it enhances more respect for them. Muslim girls think they are safe from evil of society when they wear veil.
7. Religion do restrict them from behaving wrongly towards opposite-sex and prohibits much intermingling with opposite-sex.
8. Muslim girls and boys feel that Muslim boys are more helpful than girls.
9. Muslim girl student feels that opposite-sex is not rude to them.

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