



AN INVESTIGATION ON CONFLICT BETWEEN YOUNG ADULTS AND PARENTS

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ABSTRACT

Parent child conflict can escalate as the adolescent grows up. It affects their behaviour and adjustment. It also increases aggression and violent behaviour. Parent adolescent conflict is inter generational in nature and is affected by parenting style. The literature review has exposed many aspects of parent adolescent conflict in different countries & different societies. However, not many investigations of this nature can be found in our very unique Dharwad district of state of Karnataka. Thus our study is to investigate adolescent parent conflict in our society and to find out how it affects adolescent personality characteristic. The results concluded that the conflict with boys is often of a different nature. Parents have a fear that boys may indulge in drug taking and smoking. Often boys spend long hours outside the home with their peers which distracts them from their studies.

Keywords: *Young adults, Conflict, behavior, gender & class etc.*

INTRODUCTION

Conflicts b/w young adults & their parents are widespread. The conflict b/w young people & their parents is subject of this research. The Digital Age has engulfed contemporary Indian society. The doors to the global village and its customs have been flung open. Deeply ingrained customs in Indian culture are rapidly being eroded. On the one hand, some lament the shift, while others look forward to a brand new future. The tsunami of change has brought with it numerous benefits that have become so commonplace to us that we have forgotten to appreciate them. The mobile phone and its accompanying communication infrastructure is a notable example.

However, the winds of change have also brought about negative repercussions in society. Families' foundations are no longer as stable as they once were. Cooperation among rural life, for example, has nearly disappeared. The changes that have occurred in Indian society have resulted in a significant generation gap. This is most visible between parents and their children who are approaching or have already entered adulthood. Parents who were raised with conventional religious and social mores are now confronted with a generation that thinks and acts differently. These discrepancies in introduction frequently lead to squabbles between parents and their newly grown-up offspring (Collins and Laursen, 1998; Serra, 1971).

Adolescence is a stage in life when people are neither children nor adults. This is especially true throughout late adolescence or early adulthood. At this point, the young adult has just completed Class X and has entered the doors of upper secondary education, but he or she is still economically dependent.

This scenario persists from school to college, and it is probably aggravated when the student leaves the embrace of school and embarks on what may be the final step of preparation



for a profession, namely, college life. The college student is legally an adult. The fact that he or she has the right to vote indicates that he or she has the right to an independent viewpoint. Nonetheless, the college student is still reliant on his or her parents and is frequently required to live at home under parental supervision. Young people' behaviour and thoughts serve as a link b/w values of their parents & values they sense around them (Aggarwal et al., 2017).

Conflict causes misery and suffering in both generations. But what is most concerning is that it has the capacity to destroy young brains and turn them into a hostile and aggressive generation (Ibabe, Jaireguizar, and Oscar 2009).

The general parenting styles in traditional homes in India is more authoritarian in nature. This is often at odds with contemporary ways of life and become sources of conflict b/w young adults and their parents (Bi et al., 2018).

Education regarding parenting has become a prime need in the present day society. Parents have to be made aware that their grown up 'child' is now not someone who can be reprimanded at will and imposed on with rules. Rather parents have a lot to gain, if they can establish a friendly and egalitarian relationship with their newly adult children. They can discuss a variety of issues with their children starting from family finances to what they would like to eat, how they would like to dress, what they discuss with their friends and even their sexual desires and propensities. In other words, parents should open up the doors of both their own and their children's inner souls so that they can communicate freely and at will.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of study is to look at the causes and scope of conflict between young adults.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

H₀₁: There is no significant gender-wise difference in Conflict Score

H₀₂: There is no significant class-wise difference in Conflict Score

LITERATURE REVIEW

Klahr et al. (2011) conducted this study to find out relationship between parents adolescent conflict and antisocial behavior among adolescent. Sample consisted of 1199 adolescents from 610 families. Tools used is Sibling interaction & Behavior study. Results indicated of adolescent behavior. This was noted both in case of biological and adopted children.

Vaterlaus (2012) conducted a study in Utahh state university. The main objective of study was to find out relation b/w digital generation gap and parent child relation difference between generation regarding knowledge of technology with respect to video chat, use of cell phone child conflict occurred due to perceived generation technology difference regarding twitter, video chat etc.

Peterson, Bush and Chung (2013) conducted a study to find out potential predictors of parents adolescent conflict within gender & across gender of parent adolescent dyads. Sample consisted of 1365 adolescent from Mainland China, Russia and US families. Results indicated that use of punishment by parents was a significant predictor of parent adolescent conflict across all groups. Use of punishment by parents increased conflict between adolescent and their parents in all three cultures.

Ozdemir (2014) conducted a study to find out the relation b/w parent adolescent conflict, self-esteem of adolescents & symptoms of depression. Sample consisted of 338 adolescents in age group of 14- 18 years. Result showed that there was direct effect to conflict happening between Adolescents and their parents on depression symptoms through self esteem.

Onongha (2015) carried out this study in Nigeria. The main objective of this study was to examine the relation b/w parent adolescent conflict & academic performance of adolescents. The sample for this study consisted of 300 high school students from 6 high schools. Purposive sampling was used. Tools used for study consisted of Conflict Behaviour Questionnaire and examination score of participants in Maths and English. Results showed that conflict b/w adolescents & their parents influence the performance of male adolescents, but no influence was found in case of female adolescents.

Cotar (2016) conducted this study to find out age & gender difference in parent adolescent conflict styles & outcomes of conflict. Sample consisted of 514 adolescence out of which 54% were female. Tool used was Slovenian version of the “When we Disagree” scale (2009). Results showed that mothers were perceived to have more aggressive or more compromising conflict styles in comparison to fathers. Age wise difference was also found. Participants in late adolescence reported that they had more frustration and aggression in conflict with their father and mother compared to adolescents younger to them Middle aged adolescents reported that they had more frustration and aggression with their father and mother compared to juniors.

Athanatius, Unogo and Oriji (2017) conducted a study to find out the influence of gender, parenting style & peer pressure on conflict of adolescents with their parents. The sample consisted of 200 students purposively selected out of which 109 were male and 91 were females. A tool was constructed by the researcher named Adolescent Conflict with Parents. Results showed that there is difference in conflict b/w adolescent boys and girls with parents. Significant difference also exists between authoritative and permissive parenting style on adolescent conflict with parents. The researchers are of the view that students should be counselled on peer relationship to avoid conflict with parents.

Gabriel et al. (2018) conducted a qualitative study to examine adolescents’ aggression and violence towards their parents in UK. Data was obtained through semi-structured interview with parents. The sample consisted of 18 participants of which 3 were parents, 5 were practitioners and 8 were practitioner focus group and 2 were young people. Interview and focus group meeting was undertaken. Findings showed that adolescents who were aggressive with their parents are often victims themselves.

By comparing migrant and urban children's literacy and mathematics performance, Jun Wang et al. (2021) sought to investigate the developmental trajectories of migrant and urban children's literacy and math performance, as well as the impact of family socioeconomic status (SES) and parenting styles, including the mediating effect of parenting styles. Migrant children's positive development in China is limited by uneven access to quality urban schooling resources. This study emphasizes the significance of concentrating on various trajectories of migrant and urban children's reading and mathematics success in order to improve their school accomplishment.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Independent variable- Conflict Score – It is the extent of conflict (Banerjee and Ghose, 2012)

Categorical variables- Class Groups

- Plus 2 (XI and XII)
- Degree (1st year)

Gender

- M- Male
- F-Female

Population consists of Plus 2 (age group 16-18 years) and 1st year degree college students (age group 18- 19 years) of Dharawad district of Karnataka from both urban and rural areas. Most students belonged to middle class families having TV, mobile phone, computer and other familiar gadgets at home. 15% of the urban sample owned their own residence and car 90% of students live with both their parents. Profession of parents (generally): In urban areas: service In rural areas: agriculture

Table 1: Sample for study

Class	Gender	Number	Total
XI	M	107	200
	F	93	
XII	M	36	79
	F	43	
Graduation (1st Year)	M	48	120
	F	72	
TOTAL		400	400

ORIGIN OF CONFLICT

The issues which lead to conflict b/w young adults & their parents are analyzed from three different angles, viz whole sample, gender wise and class wise. To locate the origin of conflict between the students and their parents, the following steps were taken:

- The individual issue score of all the 400 students were tabulated on a SPSS Spreadsheet.
- To bring uniformity among the issue based scores, each issue based score was converted into percentage.
- Means were calculated for all the 32 issue scores.
- The 32 means of issue scores were tabulated on a fresh spread sheet and mean of mean (MM) and standard deviation of mean (SDM) were calculated.

Table 2 Mean of Mean and SD of the Mean for the Whole Sample

N	Mean of Means	SD of Means
32	37.95	13.882

Table 3 Classification of Issues with reference to MM and SDM for the whole sample

Less than 24.06	Low Conflict Issue (LCI)
Between 24.06 and 37.96	Low Average Conflict Issue (LACI)
Between 37.96 and 51.84	High Average Conflict Issue (HACI)
Greater than 51.84	High Conflict Issue (HCI)

On the basis of the above classification, individual issues have been classified thus in increasing order:

Table 4 Various issues of conflict according to their intensity for the whole sample

Low Conflict Issue	Low Average Conflict Issue	High Average Conflict Issue	High Conflict Issue
Addiction	Honesty	Activities with Friends	Answering for your Actions
Sex	Family Justice	Decision Making	Over protectiveness
Materialism	Computer	Television	Study Result and Ambition
Privacy	Conservatism in Dress	Mobile/ Land Phones	Tradition
	What you Study	Time Spent with Friends	
	Unnecessary Item	Food	
	Choice of Friends	Study Time	
	Violence	Music	
	Orderliness	Dieting	
	Communication	Study Effort	
	Hair Style		
	Sleeping		
	Expenses on your Dress		
	Money		

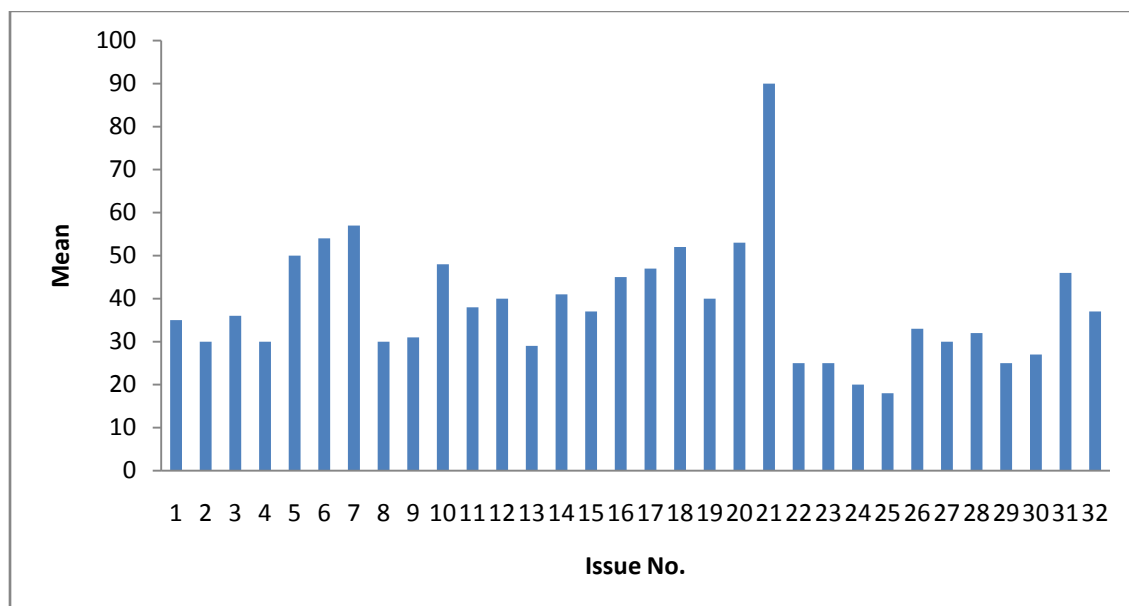


Figure 1 issues according to their percentage mean scores (Whole sample)

Tradition stands out as an issue that generates most conflict, answering for your actions, over protectiveness, study result and ambition are the issues which cause high conflict. Most issues account for average conflict, few issues account for low conflict showing that most issues lead to conflict.

GENDER WISE DIFFERENCES IN ORIGIN OF CONFLICT

To locate the origin of conflict on a gender wise basis, the following steps were taken:

- The data thus obtained was split on a gender wise basis.
- Means were calculated for all the issue scores
- For each gender, the 32 means of the issue scores were tabulated and mean of means & standard deviation of means were calculated.
- The mean of means of all the issues was denoted as MMF for females and MMM for males
- The standard deviation of the means of all the issues was denoted as SDMF for females and SDMM for males

Table 5 Mean of means & SD of means for both males and females

Gender	N	Mean of Means	SD of Means
Males	32	35.16 (MMM)	13.54 (SDMM)
Females	32	40.52 (MMF)	14.47 (SDMF)

$MMM+SDMM=35.16+13.54= 48.7$ $MMF+SDMF= 40.52+14.47=54.99$

$MMM-SDMM= 35.16 - 13.54 = 21.62$ $MMF-SDMF= 40.52-14.47 = 26.5$

As with the whole sample, issues were classified as Low Conflict Issues, Low Average Conflict Issues, High Average Conflict Issues and High Conflict Issues according to their percentage mean scores.

Table 6 Classification of issues with reference to MMM and SDMM for males.

Less than 21.65	low Conflict Issue (LCI)
Between 21.65 and 35.16	Low Average Conflict Issue (LACI)
Between 35.16 and 48.6	High Average Conflict Issue (HACI)
Greater than 48.6	High Conflict Issue (HCI)

Table 7 Classification of issues with reference to MMF and SDMF for females

Less than 26.1	Low Conflict Issue (LCI)
Between 26.1 and 40.1	Low Average Conflict Issue
Between 40.52 and 54.98	High Average Conflict Issue
Greater than 54.98	High Conflict Issue

Table 8 Genderwise Combined Chart Showing Origin Of Conflict According To Intensity

Low Conflict Issue		Low Average Conflict Issue		High Average Conflict Issue		High Conflict Issue	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Sex	Addiction	Privacy	family Justice	Sleeping	Activities with Friends	Over Protective ness	Study Result & Ambition
Addiction	Materialism	Honesty	Computer	Decision Making	Television	Study Effort	Over protectiveness
	Honesty	Computer	What you Study	Television	Decision Making	Study Result and Ambition	Answering for your Actions
	Privacy	family Justice	unnecessary Items	Food	Mobile Phones	tradition	Tradition
	Sex	Materialism	Conservatism in dress	Time spent with Friends	Study Time		
		Conservatism in Dress	Choice of Friends	Dieting	Time spent with Friends		
		Violence	Orderliness	Answering for your Actions	Music		
		Unnecessary Item	Violence	Music	Food		
		What you Study	Communication	Study Time	Dieting		
		Choice of Friends	Sleeping		Study Effort		
		Communication	Hair Style				
		Orderliness	Expenses on Dress				
		Hair Style	Money				
		Expenses on Dress					
		Mobile Phone					
		Money					
		Activities with Friends					

A Bar graph showing the mean of each issue of males and females was drawn.

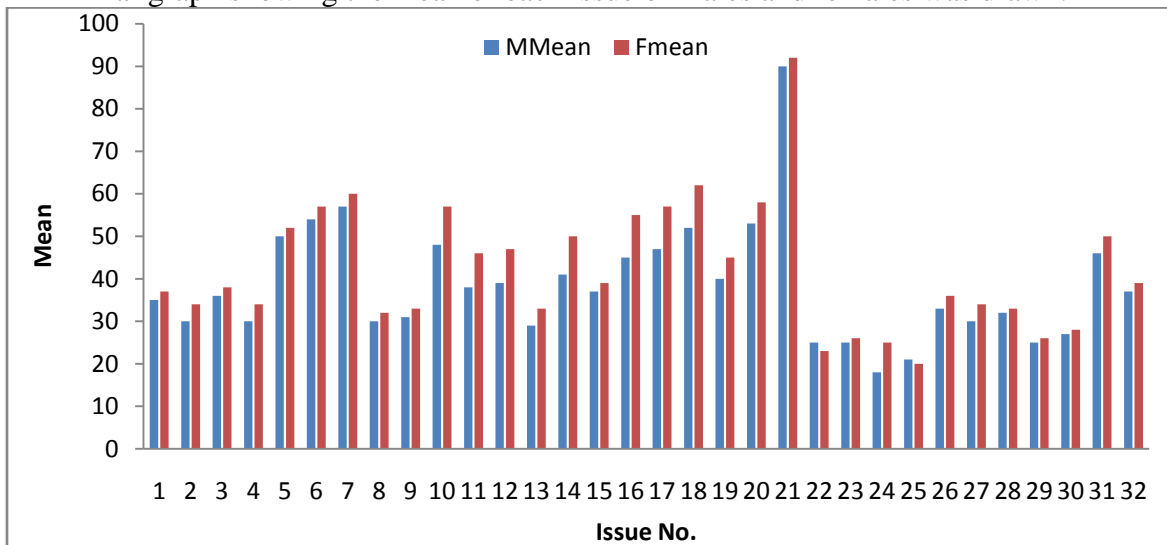


Figure 2 mean of each issue of males and females

Sources of High Conflict Common to both genders- Over protectiveness, Study Result and Ambition and Tradition, Sources of High Average Conflict Common to both genders, Decision Making, Television, Food, Time Spent with Friends, Dieting Music and Study Time

Sources of High Conflict particularly for females- Answering for your Actions

Issues creating high conflict among males and High Average Conflict among females- Study Effort

Sources of High Average Conflict Common to both genders- Television, Decision Making, Time Spent with friends, Food, Dieting and Music

Some Sources of Conflict that Create High Average Conflict for females also create low average conflict for males- Mobile phones and Activities with Friends

Some sources of Low to Low Average Conflict- Addiction, Materialism, communication Family Justice However, gender differences with these issues exist

CLASS WISE DIFFERENCES IN ORIGIN OF CONFLICT

To locate the origin of conflict on a classwise basis the following steps were taken:

- The data thus obtained was split on a class wise basis.
- Means were calculated for all the issue scores.
- For each class, the 32 means of the issue scores were tabulated and their means and standard deviation were calculated

Issues were classified as Low Conflict Issue, Low Average Conflict Issue, High Average Conflict Issue and High Conflict Issue.

Table 9 Mean of the Means and SD of the Means for Both Plus 2 and Degree

Gender	N	Mean of Means	SD of Means
Plus 2	32	38.36	14.46
Degree	32	37.03	13.25

$MMP+SDMP= 38.36+14.46 = 52.82$

$MMD+SDMD= 37.03 +13.25 = 50. 28$

$MMP-SDMP= 38.36 -14.46= 24.10$

$MMD-SDMD= 37.03 -13.25 = 23.88$

Table 10 Classification of issues with reference to MMP and SDMP for Plus 2

Less than 23.87	low Conflict Issue (LCI)
Between 23.87 and 38.36	Low Average Conflict Issue (LACI)
Between 38.36 and 52.83	High Average Conflict Issue (HACI)
Greater than 52.83	High Conflict Issue (HCI)

Table 11 Classification of issues with reference to MMD and SDMD for Degree

Less than 23.66	low Conflict Issue (LCI)
Between 23.75 and 37.03	Low Average Conflict Issue (LACI)
Between 37.03 and 50.27	High Average Conflict Issue (HACI)
Greater than 50.27	High Conflict Issue (HCI)

Table 12 Class wise Combined Chart Showing Origin of Conflict according to Intensity.

Low Conflict Issue		Low Average Conflict Issue		High Average Conflict Issue		High Conflict Issue	
Plus2	Degree	Plus2	Degree	Plus2	Degree	Plus2	Degree
Addiction	Materialism	Honesty	What you Study	Decision Making	Hair Style	Study Effort	Answering for your Actions
Sex	Sex	Privacy	Unnecessary Items	Mobile Phone	Decision Making	Over Protectiveness	Tradition
Computer	Privacy	Family Justice	Family Justice	Time spent with Friends	Activities with Friends	Study Result and Ambition	
	Addiction	Materialism	Choice of Friends	music	Study Time	Tradition	
	Honesty	Conservatism in Dress	Violence	Food	Mobile Phone		
		Unnecessary Item	Orderliness	Dieting	Time spent with Friends		
		Choice of Friends	Conservatism in Dress	Answering for your Actions	Food		
		Violence	Sleeping	Study time	Study Effort		
		What you	Money		Television		

		Study				
		Orderliness	Communication		Dieting	
		Communication	Expenses on Dress		Study Result and Ambition	
		Hair Style	Computer		Over protectiveness	
		Sleeping			Music	
		Expenses on Dress				
		Television				
		Money				
		activities with Friends				

A Bar Graph Showing the mean of each issue of plus 2 and degree level students

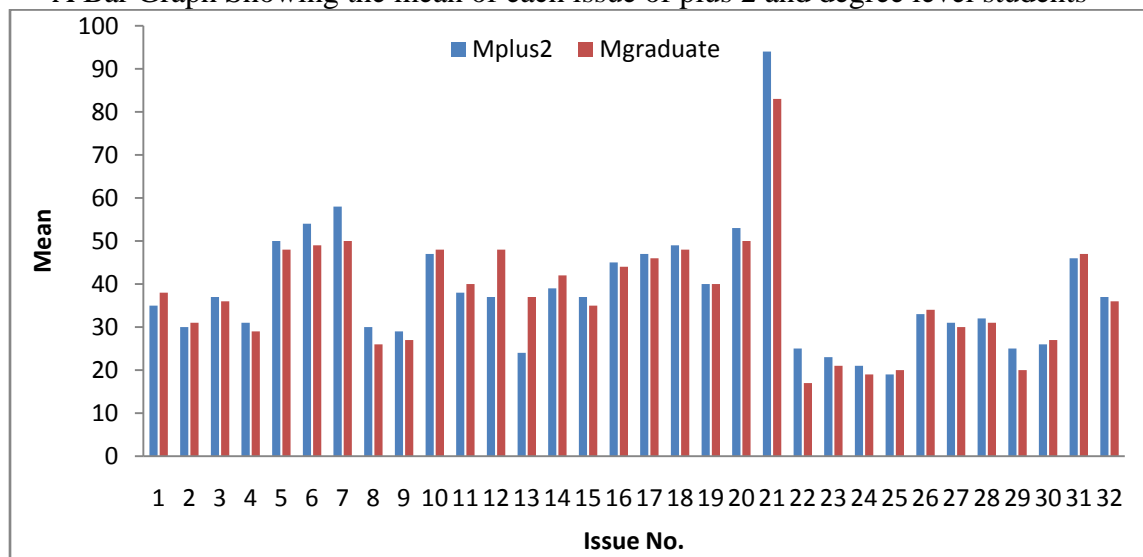


Figure 3: mean of each issue of Plus 2 and Degree level students

Sources of High Conflict Common to both Classes- Tradition

Sources of High Average Conflict Common to both Classes- Decision Making, Study Time, Mobile Phone, Time Spent with Friends, Food and Dieting

Sources of High Conflict particularly for Plus2- Study Effort, Over protectiveness, Study Result and Ambition

Sources of High Conflict particularly for Degree- Answering for your Actions

Sources of Conflict that increase as students go to the college- Answering for your Actions, Hair Style, Activities with Friends, Television, Computer

Sources of Conflict that Decrease as Students go to the College- Privacy and Materialism

Sources of low Conflict- Addiction and Sex

CLASS AND GENDER WISE DIFFERENCES IN ORIGIN OF CONFLICT

Table 13 showing Mean and SD Gender wise within Class

Class	Gender	N	MEAN	SD
PLUS2	MALES	32	34.75 (MMPM)	12.94 (SDMPM)
PLUS2	FEMALES	32	42.14(MMPF)	16.34(SDMPF)
DEGREE	MALES	32	36.41(MMDM)	16.06(SDMDM)
DEGREE	FEMALES	32	37.44(MMDF)	12.64(SDMDF)

The issues were classified according to the following calculations (as it was done for the whole sample)

PLUS 2 MALE

$MMPM+SDMPM= 34.75+12.94=47.69$

$MMPM-SDMPM= 34.75-12.94=21.81$

PLUS 2 FEMALE

$MMPF +SDMPF= 42.14+ 16.34=58.48$

$MMPF -SDMPF=42.14- 16.34=25.80$

DEGREE MALE

$MMDM+SDMDM=36.41+16.06=52.47$

$MMDM-SDMDM=36.41-16.06=20.25$

DEGREE FEMALE

$MMDF+SDMDF=37.44+12.64=50.08$

$MMDF-SDMDF=37.44-12.64=24.80$

Table 14 Classification of issues with reference to MMPM and SDMPM for Plus 2 Males

Less than 21.84	Low Conflict Issue (LCI)
Between 21.84 and 34.75	Low Average Conflict Issue (LACI)
Between 34.75 and 47.68	High Average Conflict Issue (HACI)
Above 47.68	High Conflict Issue

Table 15 Classification of issues with reference to MMPF and SDMPF for Plus2 Females

Less than 25.7	Low Conflict Issue (LCI)
Between 25.7 and 42.14	Low Average Conflict Issue (LACI)
Between 42.14 and 58.45	High Average Conflict Issue (HACI)
Above 58.5	High Conflict Issue

Table 16 Classification of issues with reference to MMDM and SDMDM for Degree Males

Less than 24.7	Low Conflict Issue (LCI)
Between 24.7 and 37.44	Low Average Conflict Issue (LACI)
Between 37.44 and 50.05	High Average Conflict Issue (HACI)
Above 50.05	High Conflict Issue



Issues Increasing in Degree of Conflict from Plus 2 to Degree Level

- Hair Style, Television and Mobile are issues of conflict which increases in intensity from Plus 2 to Degree level.
- Conflict from issues like Music, Money and Decision Making in case of boys also increases in Degree from Plus 2 level.
- Communication is an issue in girls and conflict increases in intensity from Plus 2 to Degree level.

Issues Decreasing in Intensity from Plus 2 to Degree Level

Over protectiveness and Sleeping in case of males and Choice of Friends for both male and female decrease in intensity from Plus 2 to Degree level.

DISCUSSION

- Most issues give rise to average conflict, i.e., some amount of conflict.
- Few issues like sex and addiction do not contribute to conflict. However the reportage by the particular participants regarding some of the issues which purportedly do not cause conflict may be because of suppression, because of their sensitive nature. Same has been found from the study conducted by Rieschet.al. (2000)
- The issues that stands out from all the others in creating far more conflict is tradition .This is because of accelerated life style and changes in contemporary Indian society. Fuligni has shown that this type of conflict exist among various backgrounds (Fuligni,1998). Other issues that contribute to conflict are Study Effort, Study Result and Ambition, Answering for Your Actions and Overprotectiveness. The latter two issues are particularly intense for girls. This is to be expected because of the nature of Indian society. On the other hand, boys in the Plus 2 stage have a lot of conflict because of lack of Study Effort, possibly because of parental ambition and the transitive nature of this class. Boys in Degree class have much conflict because of their habits regarding making of and listening to music. Music is possibly a way through which young adults try to assert their identity.
- Some of the current modes of life also lead to clashes with parents. These are like watching TV, Using the Mobile, extreme dieting or consumption of street food.
- Modern young adults are not always consulted by their parents regarding the different decisions that are made about them. Consequently, this leads to clashes.
- A few issues like Hair Style give rise to increased conflict as students progress from school to college. In college the restrictions of uniform are discarded. Altering Hair Style is an easy way to enjoy this new found independence.
- Generally, speaking females have more conflict because of restrictive measures (Allison and Schultz,2004). Males have more problem regarding self expression. Many issues subside as males progress from school to college.



CONCLUSION

Children within Indian families are the focus of much love and attention. They are precious, but subject to supervision that imposes reigns on them which are often of a patriarchal nature. The modern world beckons the adolescent with novel and enticing opportunities and ways of life. But these often clash with long established social and familial restrictions and parental constraints. One of the main channels for redemption of the young adult is through school and education. Both parents and the young adult often lay great faith on education and its power to open doors for a better life. Yet the clash between the old and the new has the potential of distracting the young adult from welltrodden paths towards divergent dreams.

This investigation has attempted to find out the extent of conflict between parents and their children. Further, the investigation has attempted to identify the issues that lead to these conflicts. Conflict cannot be a contributor to social and psychological equanimity. The investigation was conducted both quantitatively and qualitatively on students in Plus 2 classes and in the 1st Year of college. The initial sample consisted of 400 students. Girls have been found to encounter more conflict than boys. This is because of our patriarchal society. Our society imposes several restrictions on girls. Boys are given much more freedom compared to girls. Girls are forced to follow the dictums of their parents. They are always overprotected. They have to answer their parents regarding each and every issue. Parents overlook the fact that their daughters need to express their opinions and take decisions about themselves. Whenever girls wish to deviate an inch from their parents' orders they are forced to remember their tradition. Their each and every activity is observed critically. They have to conform to their parents on each and every issue. Another interesting finding is that when girls go to college they appear to get some reprieve from conflict. Most girls' schools impose restrictions that girls are happy to be relieved of, when they enter college. Moreover, the privilege of going to college indicates a grasp on the freedom trail. Thus issues of conflict are more equitable for girls in college. But this is the opposite in case of boys whose conflict increases as they go to college. Boys in college are more on the edge of a career that promises status and financial relief for their parents. Whether they and their activities are taking them to their desired goals become a point of stress for the parents. Thus several issues that did not abrade previously become inflamed as boys enter college.

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