

PERCEIVED PARENTAL SUPPORT IN DECISION MAKING

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ABSTRACT

This study attempts to portray the parental support and their involvement in the decision making process, as perceived by the undergraduate students. The demographic attributes analyzed were the family type, residential status, education, occupation and income of the parents. The parental support includes five dimensions namely, supporting higher education decisions, financial decisions, purchase decisions marriage decisions and sending abroad. The study highlights the fact that Income of the parents plays a greater role in decision making process and there exists no significant relationship between the abovementioned demographic variables and the other four dimensions of parental support.

Key words: Parental Support, Decision Making, Higher Education, Financial Decisions, Purchase Decisions and Marriage Decisions.

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INTRODUCTION

Indian parents always have an optimistic parenthood, of caring, supporting and guiding their children. The role of the parent does not imply that there is just a single and essential role. There are many roles of being a parent and some of them are essential, while others are secondary.

The role of being a parent is described by taking into analysis the biological, psychological, social and financial dimensions. The parents' roles are of the maximum importance for personality development of the children. Basic traditional roles of being a parent are: nurture and educate children, discipline them, manage home and financially support family. Modern roles brought an active participation of fathers in children care. The main idea is that parents must be child centered and should aim to optimal growth and development of their children, to help them have satisfactory biological, social, psychological and emotional growth.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The researcher attempts to understand, how college students, perceive their parental support in important decision making. The need for the study evolves from the changing attitude, perception and behavior of the youngsters and parents which is a result of various internal and external factors.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study will provide the relationship between the family type, parents' residential status, education, occupation, income, and support provided in decision making, as perceived by the students. The parental support includes five dimensions namely, supporting higher education decisions, financial decisions, purchase decisions, marriage decisions and decision to send abroad for higher studies. Future research can be done on the impact of this parental support and involvement in their studies, performance etc.

The scope of the study is limited to 200 respondents who are undergraduate students which can, by and large be expanded in future studies. The dimensions analyzed can also be increased to have a precise result.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To explore the undergraduate students' perception on Parental Support in decision making
- To find out the association between Parental Support and the profile variables i.e., Family Type, Residential Status, Education, Occupation and Income.

HYPOTHESIS FRAMED

- There is no significant association between parental support and family type.
- There is no significant association between parental support and residential status.
- There is no significant association between parental support and education of parents.
- There is no significant association between parental support and occupation.
- There is no significant relationship between parental support and Income of the parents

METHODOLOGY

In this study the survey method of collecting data was adopted and it was conducted in 4 colleges situated in Velachery area, Chennai. The respondents were undergraduate students from all disciplines. A structured questionnaire was used to collect Primary data from the respondents. The sampling methods adopted were convenient sampling and stratified sampling. The selection of colleges was done by using convenient sampling. The sample size was 200, i.e., 50 respondents from each of the 4 colleges. The selection of 50 respondents from each college was done by using stratified sampling method based on the number of disciplines offered in each college.

TOOLS USED FOR THE ANALYSIS

Percentage Analysis was used to analyze the demographic variables and ANOVA two way factors were used to test the hypothesis.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study has the following constraints:

- The sample size is restricted to only 200 respondents, due to time and financial constraints.
- The sample size 200 cannot be generalized to entire universe
- The sample respondents comprised only of undergraduate students.

- Convenience sampling has its own characters of being biased and unsatisfactory.
- The study is based on the prevailing condition, results of which need not be consistent in future.
- Due to time constraint the study was limited to students from a few colleges only.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Allan Wigfield, University of Michigan, conducted a study on Students' Perceptions of their Parents' Beliefs Concerning Their Academic Competence. This study attempts to investigate whether parents' own behaviors and beliefs or their interpretations of their children's behavior relate more closely to child's own achievement beliefs. Additionally, the age and sex differences in children's perceptions of their parents' beliefs were explored. It is also found that there is no correlation and significant relationship between the parents' own beliefs, their occupational and educational backgrounds, or their use and enjoyment of math and the children's beliefs. However, there is direct modeling hypothesis that the parents may influence children's achievement beliefs through their own beliefs and behaviors.

Charles Desforges, Alberto Abouchaar in their research on 'The Impact of Parental Involvement, Parental Support and Family Education on Pupil Achievements and Adjustment', explores that the parental involvement takes many forms including good parenting in the home, the provision of secure and stable environment, intellectual stimulation, imparting social and educational values, participation in school events, sharing information etc. The extent and form of parental involvement is strongly influenced by family social class, maternal level of education, maternal psycho-social health and single parent status and to a lesser extent, by family ethnicity. Parental involvement is strongly and positively influenced by the child's level of attainment: the higher level of attainment, the more parents get involved.

Kay M. Palan and Robert E. Wilkes conducted a study on 'Adolescent-Parent interaction in family decision making. It explores the knowledge base On adolescents and family purchase behavior. The article explores specifically, the strategies used by adolescents to influence decision making, the parents' response and the effectiveness of their influence attempts.

Sanford M. Donbusch and three others conducted a study on ‘the family decision making and academic performance in a diverse high school population’ which highlighted the relation between family decision making behaviors and academic performance as measured by student effort from diverse family structures, socio economic and ethnic backgrounds. It was found that joint decision making by the adolescents and parents was associated with more efforts and higher grades, regardless of family background and status.

Sebastian Schnettler, Anja Steinbach, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany, conducted a research entitled ‘An Evolutionary Perspective on Perceived Parental Care And Closeness In Adolescents’. This research shows that both parental and child gender are relevant with regard to parental involvement and relationship assessments and gender-homogeneous parent-child relations have been found to fare more positively than gender-heterogeneous relationships. It is also found that there is a significant relationship between genetic relatedness of children and both fathers and mothers in relationship assessment. Also, there exist more positive relationship assessments in gender-homogeneous parent-child constellation as opposed to gender-heterogeneous ones.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1 Respondents Opinion on Parental Support

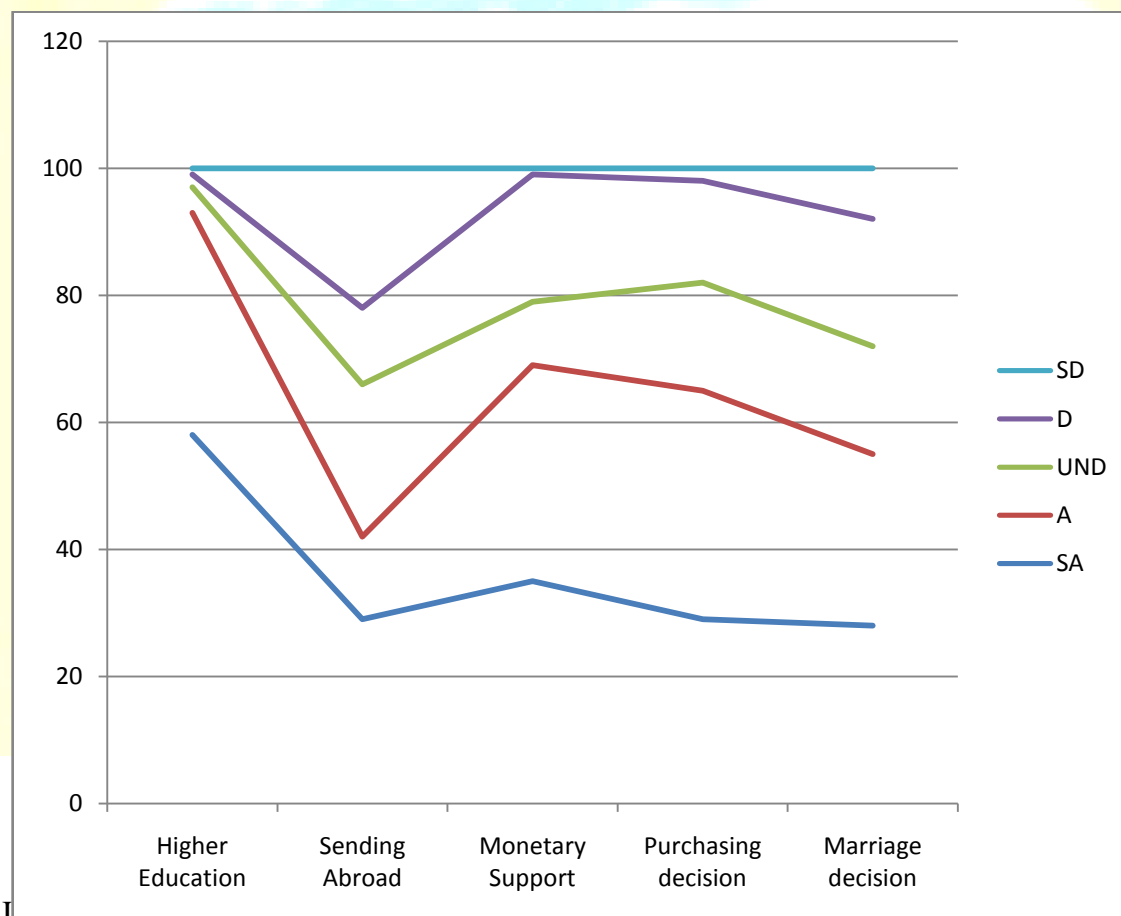
Sl.No	PS Variables	S A %	A %	UND %	D%	SD%
1.	Higher Education	58	35	4	2	1
2.	Sending Abroad	29	13	24	12	22
3.	Monetary Support	35	34	10	20	1
4.	Purchasing decision	29	36	17	16	2
5.	Marriage decision	28	27	17	20	8

(SA- Strongly Agree, A-Agree, UND-Undecided, D-Disagree, SD-Strongly Disagree)

INFERENCE

- 58 percentage of the respondents strongly agreed that their parents support their higher education decision.
- 29 percentage of them strongly agreed that their parents support sending them abroad for higher studies.
- 35 percentage of the respondents strongly agreed that their parents provide monetary support.
- 36 percentage of them agreed that their parents support their purchase decisions.
- 28 percentage of the respondents strongly agreed that their parents support their marriage decision.

Chart 1 Respondents Opinion on Parental Support



**Table 2 - ANOVA for significant relationship between
Parental Support and Residential Status**

Parental Support Variables	Residential Status	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig.
Higher Education	Day Scholar	4.50	0.79	0.163	0.957
	Relative	4.50	0.70		
	Friends	4.46	0.66		
	Hosteller	4.51	0.58		
	Staying alone	5.00			
Sending Abroad	Day Scholar	3.27	1.59	0.650	0.628
	Relative	3.00	0.00		
	Friends	3.15	1.57		
	Hosteller	2.88	1.36		
	Staying alone	5.00			
Financial Support	Day Scholar	3.88	1.10	1.789	0.139
	Relative	3.50	2.12		
	Friends	3.07	1.25		
	Hosteller	3.96	1.09		
	Staying alone	5.00	.		
Purchase Decision	Day Scholar	3.81	1.16	1.961	0.108
	Relative	3.50	2.12		
	Friends	3.00	1.29		
	Hosteller	3.92	0.86		
	Staying alone	5.00	.		
Marriage Decision	Day Scholar	3.50	1.28	0.583	0.676
	Relative	4.00	1.41		
	Friends	3.46	1.50		
	Hosteller	3.24	1.36		
	Staying alone	5.00	.		

INFERENCE:

An analysis was made to find out the relationship between the residential status of the respondents and the parental support variables namely, supporting for higher education, sending abroad, financial support, purchase decisions and marriage decisions. The analysis showed that there is no significant relationship between the residential status and parental support variables. Hence, the Null Hypothesis is accepted.

Table 3 - ANOVA for significant relationship between Parental Support and Education

Parental Support Variables	Education	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig.
Higher Education	Profession	4.04	1.22	0.316	0.82
	PG	3.84	0.94		
	Degree	3.01	1.15		
	School	3.22	1.04		
Sending Abroad	Profession	4.31	1.19	0.446	0.74
	PG	4.44	1.01		
	Degree	4.59	0.43		
	School	4.45	0.62		
Financial Support	Profession	3.23	0.75	1.90	0.15
	PG	3.11	1.23		
	Degree	3.41	0.94		
	School	2.62	1.01		
Purchase Decision	Profession	4.46	0.58	1.078	0.45
	PG	3.68	1.27		
	Degree	4.03	0.52		
	School	4.11	1.07		
Marriage Decision	Profession	4.17	0.73	2.545	.042
	PG	3.62	1.38		
	Degree	4.11	0.69		
	School	3.12	1.34		

INFERENCE

The relationship between parents' education and the parental support variables namely, supporting for higher education, sending abroad, financial support, purchase decisions and marriage decisions was analyzed. The analysis showed that there is no significant relationship between the family type and parental support variables. Hence, the Null Hypothesis is accepted.

Table - 4 ANOVA for significant relationship between Parental Support and Occupation

Parental Support Variables	Occupation	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig.
Higher Education	Business	4.58	0.80	0.399	0.754
	Profession	4.50	0.57		
	Gvt/Pri	4.52	0.64		
	Other	4.30	0.67		
Sending Abroad	Business	3.61	1.56	0.182	.096
	Profession	3.75	1.25		
	Gvt/Pri	2.87	1.38		
	Other	2.60	1.57		
Financial Support	Business	3.54	1.26	1.246	0.299
	Profession	4.00	1.41		
	Gvt/Pri	4.02	1.02		
	Other	3.50	1.26		
Purchase Decision	Business	3.77	1.17	0.217	0.885
	Profession	4.00	1.41		
	Gvt/Pri	3.72	1.13		
	Other	3.50	1.17		
Marriage Decision	Business	3.74	1.36	1.025	0.386
	Profession	3.75	1.50		
	Gvt/Pri	3.27	1.30		
	Other	3.10	1.28		

(Gvt- Government, Pri – Private)

INFERENCE

An attempt to find out the relationship between parents' occupation and the parental support variables namely, supporting for higher education, sending abroad, financial support, purchase decisions and marriage decisions was made. The analysis showed that there is no significant relationship between the parents' education and parental support variables. Hence, the Null Hypothesis is accepted.

Table - 5 ANOVA for significant relationship between Parental Support and Income

Parental Support Variables	Income	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig
Higher Education	Below 100,000	4.00	0.81	1.169	0.331
	100,000 - 2 lac	4.59	0.79		
	2 lac - 3 lac	4.57	0.63		
	3 lac - 4 lac	4.31	0.79		
	above 4 lac	4.66	0.48		
Going Abroad	Below 100,000	3.25	1.50	2.756	0.033*
	100,000 - 2 lac	2.77	1.63		
	2 lac - 3 lac	2.8	1.36		
	3 lac - 4 lac	3.25	1.29		
	above 4 lac	4.20	1.42		
Financial support	Below 100,000	3.75	1.50	1.603	0.182
	100,000 - 2 lac	3.72	1.24		
	2 lac - 3 lac	3.75	1.10		
	3 lac - 4 lac	3.37	1.25		
	above 4 lac	4.40	0.82		
Purchase Decision	Below 100,000	1.75	0.50	5.793	0.000**
	100,000 - 2 lac	4.04	0.95		
	2 lac - 3 lac	3.57	1.03		
	3 lac - 4 lac	3.50	1.26		
	above 4 lac	4.33	0.97		

Marriage Decision	Below 100,000	2.75	0.95	2.467	0.051
	100,000 – 2 lac	3.18	1.22		
	2 lac – 3 lac	3.42	1.37		
	3 lac – 4 lac	3.18	1.37		
	above 4 lac	4.33	1.17		

**Significance at 1% level.

*Significance at 5% level.

INFERENCE:

An analysis was made to find out the relationship between parents' income and the parental support variables namely, supporting for higher education, sending abroad, financial support, purchase decisions and marriage decisions. The analysis showed that there is no significant relationship between the parents' income and parental support variables like, supporting higher education, financial support and marriage decision. But the parents' income has statistically significant relationship with the purchase decision at 1% significance level. In addition, the parents' income has significant relationship with the variable 'sending abroad' at 5% significance level. It means that the dimensions 'sending abroad' and 'purchase decisions' of the respondents were highly associated with the income of their parents. Hence, the Null Hypothesis is accepted.

Table - 6 ANOVA for significant relationship between Parental Support and Family Type

Parental Support Variables	Family Type	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig.
Higher Education	Nuclear	4.52	0.71	.011	.919
	Joint	4.50	0.65		
Sending Abroad	Nuclear	3.07	1.52	1.309	.256
	Joint	3.57	1.34		
Financial Support	Nuclear	3.88	1.11	3.195	.078
	Joint	3.27	1.32		
Purchase Decision	Nuclear	3.81	1.09		

	Joint	3.27	1.32	2.548	.114
Marriage Decision	Nuclear	3.53	1.29	1.909	.171
	Joint	3.00	1.46		

INFERENCE:

The relationship between the family type and the parental support variables namely, supporting for higher education, sending abroad, financial support, purchase decisions and marriage decisions was analyzed. The analysis showed that there is no significant relationship between the family type and parental support variables. Hence, the Null Hypothesis is accepted.

Table - 7 Cross Correlation between the Parental Support Dimensions

Dimensions Of Parental Support	Higher Studies PS1	Sending Abroad PS2	Financial Support PS3	Purchase Decision PS4	Marriage Decision PS5
Higher Studies PS1	1.00	0.86*	0.83*	0.06	0.31
Sending Abroad PS2	--	1.00	0.27	0.24	0.31
Financial Support PS3	--	--	1.000	0.065	0.313
Purchase Decision PS4	--	--	--	1.000	0.120
Marriage Decision PS5	--	--	--	--	1.000

*Significance at 0.80 level.

INFERENCE:

The above table presents the correlation analysis among the parental support dimensions namely, supporting for Higher Studies, Sending Abroad, Financial Support, Purchase Decision and Marriage decision. The result of the cross correlation analysis shows that the dimensions, 'higher studies' and 'sending abroad' have significant relationship with a high r value of 0.86. In addition, the dimensions 'higher studies' and 'financial support' have significant relationship with a high r value of 0.83. Hence, the dimensions 'higher studies', 'sending abroad' and 'financial support' are highly correlated with each other.

FINDINGS

PARENTAL SUPPORT ATTRIBUTES

- 93 percentage of the respondents agreed that their parents support their higher education decision
- 58 percentage of the respondents opined that their parents disagree or may not be willing to send them abroad.
- 69 percentage of the respondents agreed that their parents provide them monetary support and helps in financial decisions.
- 65 percentage of the respondents agreed that their parents support their purchase decisions.
- 55 percentage of the respondents opined that their parents will agree for love marriage.
- There is no significant relationship between the Parental Support Attributes viz., higher studies, sending abroad, financial support, purchase decision and marriage decision and the internal variables like Family Type, Residential Status, Education, Occupation and Income.
- But there exists a significant relationship between, income and sending abroad, income and purchase decisions, income and marriage decision.

CONCLUSION

It is understood that the sample respondents perception and understanding of their parents support is positive and it is perceived in right sense. This study gives a good insight on the perception of youngsters towards understanding the parents support and involvement in making important

decisions. It is also found out that, factors like gender, family type, parent's education, parent's occupation, residential status do not play a significant role in supporting their decisions.

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