



DR. Priya Kumari

**Factors Influencing Morality In Children**

Department of Home Science, M. M. Mahila College, Ara Veer Kunwar Singh University Ara (Bihar) India

Received-27.10.2024,

Revised-03.11.2024,

Accepted-10.11.2024

E-mail : priyakumari122014@gmail.com

**Abstract:** A study of factors influencing morality in children was done on a sample of 336 children of 6 to 12 years studying in 1st to 7th standards of Government and Private schools from urban area and Government schools from rural area of Dharwad taluk of Karnataka and Kudra taluk Bihar was drawn. Moral values was measured with a scale developed by Gupta & Singh (2010) which included four dimensions- lying, dishonesty, stealing, cheating. Socio economic status of the family was assessed by using Aggarwal et.al scale (2005). Chi square was used for testing the association between levels of moral values by gender. The results revealed that higher percentage of children from Dharwad (50%) and Kudra (69.6%) region fell in high level of moral values, six percent from Dharwad and 11.3 percent from Kudra region fell in medium level, none of the children fell in low and very low level of moral values. gender was not associated with level of moral values of children of Dharwad and Kudra region.

**Key words :** Factors Influencing, Morality, civilized society, childhood, behaviours, critical life

**Introduction:** Morality is the supreme essence of a civilized society which distinguishes Homo sapiens from animals. The entire structure of the society is built on it. No civilization can survive for long which is not based on the principles of morality. Therefore, it is the crying need of the hour to infuse it into the hearts of human beings from childhood. Individual morals may be derived from society, government, religion or self. When moral values are derived from society and government they may change as the laws and morals of the society change. "Values are the guiding principles, decisive in day to day behaviours as also is critical life situations.

Moral Value education means inculcating in the children a sense of humanism, a deep concern for the well being of others and the nation. Development of moral values in children is a function of interaction between many factors. Broadly we can divide them as personal factors and environmental factors. Personal factors point out that development of values may vary due to age, sex and intelligence. Whereas environmental factors indicate that social economic status, parent child relationship, education level of parents', quality of home environment, school environment all play significant role in the development of values in children. Both parents and educators, now a days, are concerned about their children since they are being increasingly affected by violence, growing social problems and a lack of respect for each other and the world around them (Smith, 2006). It is assumed that a part of the solution is an emphasis on teaching values to children as early as possible. In view of the above, a study of selected factors related to moral values in children of Dharwad and Kudra region has been planned.

**Materials and Methods-**

**Research Design:** Differential design was used to compare moral values of boys and girls and between younger and older children of Dharwad and Kudra region.

**Population and sample:** Children studying in 1st to 7th grade in Government and Private schools from urban area and Government schools from rural area (as there were more Government schools and only two Private schools in rural area) of Dharwad taluk Karnataka and Kudra taluk Bihar in the year 2024 formed the population. Four school from urban area with two each from Private and Government and two Government school from rural area of Dharwad region and Kudra region were selected for the study and from each standard (1st to 7th) two boys and two girls were randomly selected for the study. The sample constituted 336 children where 168 children were from Dharwad taluk Karnataka and 168 children were from Kudra taluk Bihar.

**Tools used for the study:** Aggarwal's socioeconomic status scale - The Socioeconomic status of family was assessed by using Aggarwal et. al scale (2005).

Gupta and Singh's moral value scale (2010) - Moral values of school children in age range of 6 to 13 years was measured by Moral value scale developed by Gupta and Singh (2010).

**Statistical Analysis:**

- Frequency and percentages were computed to describe the level of moral value of children.
- Chi-Square a non parametric test was used to know the association of moral values with age and gender of children.



- c. Correlation: Karl Pearson’s correlation coefficient analysis was carried out to assess the degree of relationship between moral values and age of children.
- d. Student t- test was used to know the difference in moral values by gender and age of children.

**Results and Discussion:**The results of the study on moral value of children among Dharwad and Kudra region are presented in Table 1.1. It is fortunate to know that a higher percentage of children from Dharwad (50%) and Kudra (69.6%) region fell in high level of moral value followed by very high i.e. Dharwad (44%)and Kudra region ( 19% ). Six per cent children of Dharwad group and 11.3 per cent children of Kudra group fell in medium level. None of the children from both the region fell in low and very low level.

So children as young as 8-10 years do know the moral values. Out of fear of punishment or to gratify their simple desire they commit mistake but their conscience guides them to do the right due to the internalization of the values nurtured through parenting or disciplining by school.

An appraisal of Table 1.2 reveals that 54.8 per cent of boys from Dharwad region had high level of moral value followed by very high (39.3%) and only six per cent were in medium level. When female children were considered it was seen that higher per cent of girls (48.8%) had very high moral value followed by high (45.2%) and medium (6.0%) level. However chi-square indicated non-significant association between gender and moral value of children.

Among children of Kudra region, about 72.0 per cent boys had high moral value followed by very high (15.5%) and low (11.9%). About 66.7 per cent girls had high level of moral value followed by very high (22.6%) and medium (10.7%). Chi square value (1.391) indicated non-significant association. When the mean scores of moral values were compared (Table 1.3) it was observed that Girls (82.79) mean score was higher than boys (81.30) in case of Dharwad and Kudra region. However the ‘t’ test value was found to be statistically non significant indicating that there is no gender difference with respect to moral value of children. Similarly Cabrales et al. (2013) also found non-significant association between gender and moral attitude of college students (17-18 years). Davood and Karimi (2012) reported no significant difference between high school boys and girls in moral justice. However Javed et al. (2015) found that girls had higher tendency as well as better attitude compared to boys (10-13years). Similarly Rana (2014) reported significant difference in moral value of boys and girls (13-14 years), where girls showed higher moral value compared to boys. He states that, the ways of social upbringing projects the female children towards “well mannered” behaviors with a lot of things labeled as “taboos”. Their patience, tolerance, perseverance and systematic approach helped them to be more directive and receptive.

**Conclusion:** Higher percentage of children from Dharwad and Kudra region fell in high level of moral value None of the children from both the region fell in low and very low level.

Gender was not associated with moral values of children. Children of either gender seemed to have good moral values.

**Table 1.1 Percentage distributions of children by levels of moral values**

N=336			
Region	Levels	Frequency	Per cent
<b>Karnataka (Dharwad) n=168</b>	Very High	74	44.0
	High	84	50.0
	Medium	10	6.0
	Low	-	-
	Very low	-	-
<b>Bihar (Kudra) n=168</b>	Very High	32	19.0
	High	117	69.6
	Medium	19	11.3
	Low	-	-
	Very low	-	-



**Table 1.2 Association between gender and level of moral values of children**

Region	Category	Level of moral values						Modified $\chi^2$
		Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High	Total	
Karnataka (Dharwad)	Male	-	-	5 (6.0)	46 (54.8)	33 (39.3)	84 (100.00)	1.63 <sup>NS</sup>
	Female	-	-	5 (6.0)	38 (45.2)	41 (48.8)	84 (100.00)	
Bihar (Kudra)	Male	-	-	10 (11.9)	61 (72.6)	13 (15.5)	84 (100.00)	1.39 <sup>NS</sup>
	Female	-	-	9 (10.7)	56 (66.7)	19 (22.6)	84 (100.00)	

Figure in Parenthesis indicates percentage

NS- Non Significant

**Table 1.3 Comparison of mean score of moral values of children by gender**

Region	Category	N	Mean	SD	t test value
Karnataka (Dharwad)	Male	84	81.30	9.44	1.03 <sup>NS</sup>
	Female	84	82.79	9.22	
Bihar (Kudra)	Male	84	75.59	10.19	0.91 <sup>NS</sup>
	Female	84	77.02	10.15	

NS- Non Significant

### REFERENCES

1. Aggarwal, O. P., Bhasin, S. K., Sharma, A. K., Chhabra, P., Aggarwal, K and Rajoura, O. P., 2005, A new instrument (Scale) for measuring the socioeconomic status of a family : Preliminary Study. *Ind. J. Community Medicine.* 30(4):111-114.
2. Cabrales, P. S., Villanueva, M. F., Cabaguing, A. M., and Cosmod, D., 2013, Effect of study circle on moral attitudes of Filipino college students. *Int. J. Soc. Sci. Studies.*, 2(1):26-37.
3. Davood, H., and Karimi, F., 2012, The relation between value system and moral growth with finding identification in high school students. *Archives of Applied Sci. Res.*, 4 (1):714-734.
4. Gupta, A. S., and Sing, A. K., 2010, Moral value scale (MVS), *Agra Psychological Res. Cell, Agra India.*
5. Javed, A., Kausar, R. ., and Khan, N., 2015, Effect of school system and gender on moral values and forgiveness in Pakistan school children. *Malaysian J. Edu. Sci.* 2(4):13-24.
6. Rana, S. S., 2014, Study of moral values of elementary school students in relation to home environment. *Ind. J. Applied Res.*, 3(1):155-156.
7. Smith, M. H. (2006). Ethics and moral values. Retrieved from <http://virtualreligion.net/vri/ethics.html>

\*\*\*\*\*