



Original Article

Maternal acceptance-rejection among upper primary school pupils with reference to types of family and income

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Abstract

Major purpose of the research is to discover the effect of joint and nuclear family and total monthly income of family of upper primary school pupils on maternal acceptance-rejection. Total 600 upper primary school pupils selected as a sample, out of that, 276 pupils from joint family and 324 from nuclear family. In another same group 287 pupils from low total monthly of family and 313 pupils from high total monthly income of family. Data regarding study were collect from 5 taluka's of north-east Banaskantha. For gathering the information regarding relation of pupils with their mother parental acceptance-rejection scale developed (Rohner, 2005) Indian adaption of Dr. Jai Prakash and Dr. Mahesh Bhargava (2015) and its Gujarati standardized version by Jadav (2025) was used, Data were analysis by 't' test. Result show that, the proportion of maternal rejection among pupils from joint families is higher than that of pupils from nuclear families. The level of maternal rejection is higher in low total monthly income family pupil's, other side maternal acceptance is more in high total monthly income family pupil's.

Keywords: Maternal acceptance-rejection, Upper primary school pupils, Types of family, Income

Introduction

The journey of human being growth begins long before a child taking their first steps or speaks their first words. From the earliest interactions with caregivers, children begin to construct an internal picture of who they are, how the world sees them, and what they are capable of becoming. These early foundations are not merely biological; they are deeply psychological, shaped through relationships, language, culture, and experience (Shonkoff & Phillips, 2000). At the center of this unfolding development lies the concept of self—a dynamic sense of identity that children form through ongoing interactions with their environment.

Tribal communities in Banaskantha, Gujarat, exhibit a complex interplay of economic vulnerability, educational challenges, and cultural resilience. Such vulnerabilities sometimes necessitate parental migration, which can disrupt emotional availability and caregiving patterns for children (Desai, Patel, & Shah, 2015). Although governmental initiatives like Eklavya Tribal Residential Schools aim to bridge educational gaps, disparities remain pronounced, particularly among girls. In Banaskantha, retention rates and academic success among tribal students are hindered by infrastructural limitations, language barriers, and cultural mismatches between home environments and school systems (Times of India, 2016).

This dynamic lies at the heart of Parental Acceptance-Rejection Theory (PAR Theory), developed by Ronald P. Rohner, a cross-cultural psychologist whose work has had a thoughtful impact on developmental psychology. PAR Theory is a comprehensive, evidence-based theory that seeks to clarify the effects of perceived parental acceptance or rejection on the personality and behavioural modification of children and adults across cultures (Rohner, 2004).

Rohner categorized parental acceptance-rejection behavior into four dimensions:

1. Warmth/Affection – expressions of love, support, and care.
2. Hostility/Aggression – spoken or bodily harm directed toward the child.
3. Indifference/Neglect – lack of concern or attention to the kid's needs.

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- Undifferentiated Rejection – the feeling of presence unloved without clear indicators.

Aims of the study:

- To find out the effect of joint and nuclear family of upper primary school pupils on maternal acceptance-rejection.
- To find out the effect of low and high total monthly income of family of the upper primary school pupils on maternal acceptance-rejection.

Hypothesis:

H₀, There is no significant difference in the maternal acceptance rejection of pupils from joint and nuclear families.

H₀, There is no significant difference in the maternal acceptance rejection of pupils with low and high total monthly family income.

Method:

Sample:

For this total 600 upper primary school pupils taken as a sample out of that, 276 pupils from joint family and 324 from nuclear family. In another same group 287 pupils from low total monthly of family and 313 pupils from high total monthly income of family. Data were collected from north-east Banaskantha district, Gujarat.

Tools used:

The following tools were used in the present study:

- Personal Data sheet:**

To get personal information like, Types of family and total monthly income of family, Personal datasheet was prepared.

- Parental acceptance-rejection scale:** (Rohner, R. P.,2005) Indian adaption of Dr. Jai Prakash and Dr. Mahesh Bhargava (2015):

American Psychological association has published the original Parental Acceptance-rejection questionnaire (Adult PARQ) in 1978. Later it was revised in 1980,2004 and 2005 (Rohner, 2005). There are three version of PARQ: The Adult PARQ (Father and Mother form), The Child

PARQ (Father and Mother form), The Parent PARQ. The standard form of PARQ consists of **sixty** (60) items, that means the mother form has sixty items and also the father form has sixty items.

The PARQ has four sub dimensions, which are: a) Warmth/ Affection (total 20 items including items no 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29, 33, 36,40, 43, 47, 50, 54, 55, 57, 58 and 60); b) Hostility/ Aggression (total 15 items including items no 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23 ,27, 30, 34, 37, 41, 44, 48 and 51); c) Indifference/ Neglect (total 15 items including items no 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31, 35, 38, 42, 45, 49 and 52); and d) Undifferentiated Rejection (total 10 items including items no 4, 11, 18, 25, 32, 39, 46, 53, 56 and 59). The Coefficient alphas in this study were 0.89 (Khaleq and Rohner,2002). The test-retest reliability is 0.62 (Khaleq and Rohner,2002).

Indian Adaption of the test by Dr. Jai Prakash and Dr. Mahesh Bhargava (2015) was used to standardise the Gujarati version in present study. The test-retest reliability of the Hindi adaption is 0.86. For Father Form and 0.82 for Mother form, also he found the satisfactory validity.

Gujarati adaption of Parental acceptance-rejection scale:

Standardized Gujarati version of the above (Hindi) Parental Acceptance-rejection questionnaire by investigator (Dr. Sunil Jadav, 2025) was used. The test-retest reliability of the Gujarati adaption is 0.92 .for Father form and 0.89 for Mother form, also the researcher found the satisfactory validity.

Statistical Analysis:

In present research ‘t’ test was used for statistical analysis.

Result and Discussion:

To find out the main objectives 2 null hypotheses were constructed. To examine these null hypotheses, statistical techniques ‘t’ test was applied. The results obtained are presented in table No. 1 and 2.

Table. 1

N=600

Mean, SD and ‘t’ value of maternal acceptance-rejection with reference to joint and nuclear families upper primary pupils:

| Types of family | N | Mean | SD | ‘t’ value |
|-----------------|-----|--------|-------|-----------|
| Joint | 276 | 160.62 | 26.51 | 4.09* |
| Nuclear | 324 | 151.73 | 26.55 | |
| * -p>0.01 | | | | |

As per the above table no.1, the mean score of pupils from joint families is **160.62**, while the mean score of pupils from nuclear families is **151.73**. Here, a higher score indicates less maternal acceptance (or more maternal rejection). Therefore, it is clear that the proportion of maternal rejection among pupils from joint families is higher than that of pupils from nuclear families. The ‘t’ value of 4.09 indicates that this difference is statistically significant at the 0.01 level. That is, there is a significant and reliable difference in maternal acceptance-rejection

between joint and nuclear families. On the basis of this findings null hypothesis no.1 was not accepted.

From this result, it can be said that the type of family has an impact on the maternal acceptance-rejection. In a joint family, pupils may be less accepting of their mothers as they have less personal contact with their mother’s also greater role of other elders in decisions and care in joint families, whereas in a nuclear family, the level of maternal acceptance is higher due to the closer and more direct relationship between mother and child. The present findings are also clearly seen in Graph no. 1 designed on the basis of obtained result.

Graph no. 1

Graph Showing Mean Scores of maternal acceptance-rejection with reference to types of family of the upper primary pupils

X = Types of family (Joint A1 and Nuclear A2)

Y = 1.00 Sem. = 2.0 Average Score

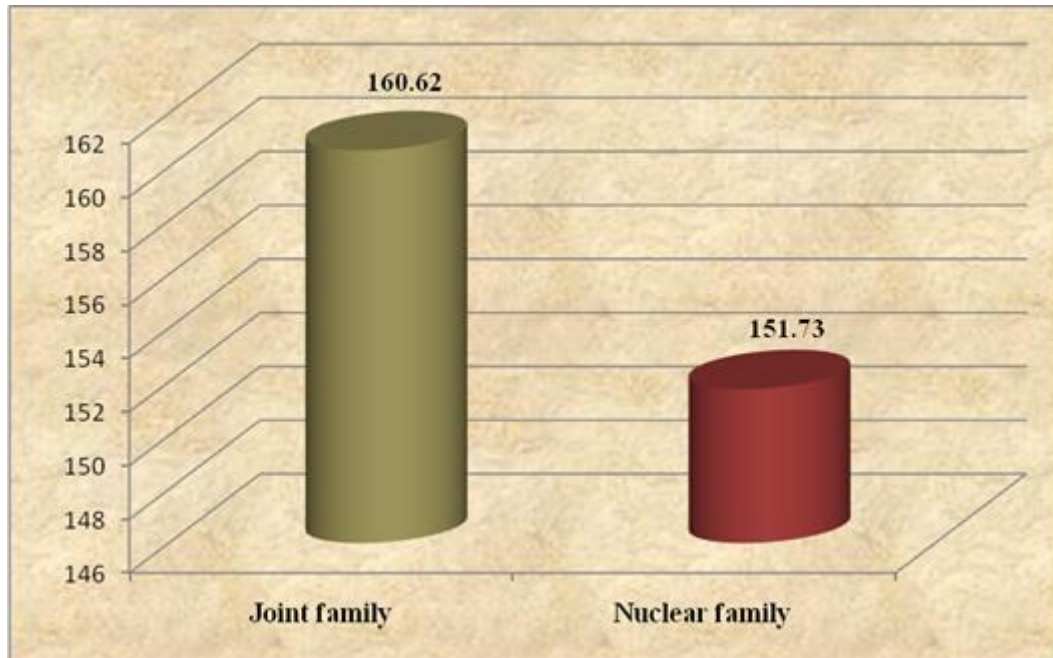


Table No. 2
(N=600)

Mean, SD and 't' value of maternal acceptance-rejection with reference to low and high total monthly income of upper primary pupils:

| | N | Mean | SD | 't' value |
|------------------------------------|-----|--------|-------|-----------|
| Low (10000/- or less than 10000/-) | 287 | 159.19 | 26.67 | *2.96 |
| High (more than 10000/-) | 313 | 152.72 | 26.74 | |
| * $p > 0.01$ | | | | |

As per the table no. 2, there is a difference in maternal acceptance-rejection scores between low monthly income families (Mean = 159.19) and high monthly income families (Mean = 152.72). The value of 't' is 2.96, which is significant at the 0.01 level. This makes it clear that there is a significant difference in maternal acceptance-rejection among pupils based on the total monthly income of the family. Here, a higher score indicates less maternal acceptance, so the level of maternal rejection is higher in pupils from low-income families, while the level of maternal acceptance is higher in pupils from high-income families. On the basis of the findings null hypothesis no. 2 was rejected.

It can be said to give a possible reason for this findings that, In low monthly income families, financial stress is high, which may cause mothers to exhibit irritability or harsh behaviour also Limited resources make it difficult to meet children's needs, which can increase the experience of rejection. On other side Mothers can be more empathetic and supportive in higher monthly income families, as they have more facilities and resources for this reason Mothers can be more empathetic and supportive in higher-income families, as they have more facilities and resources.

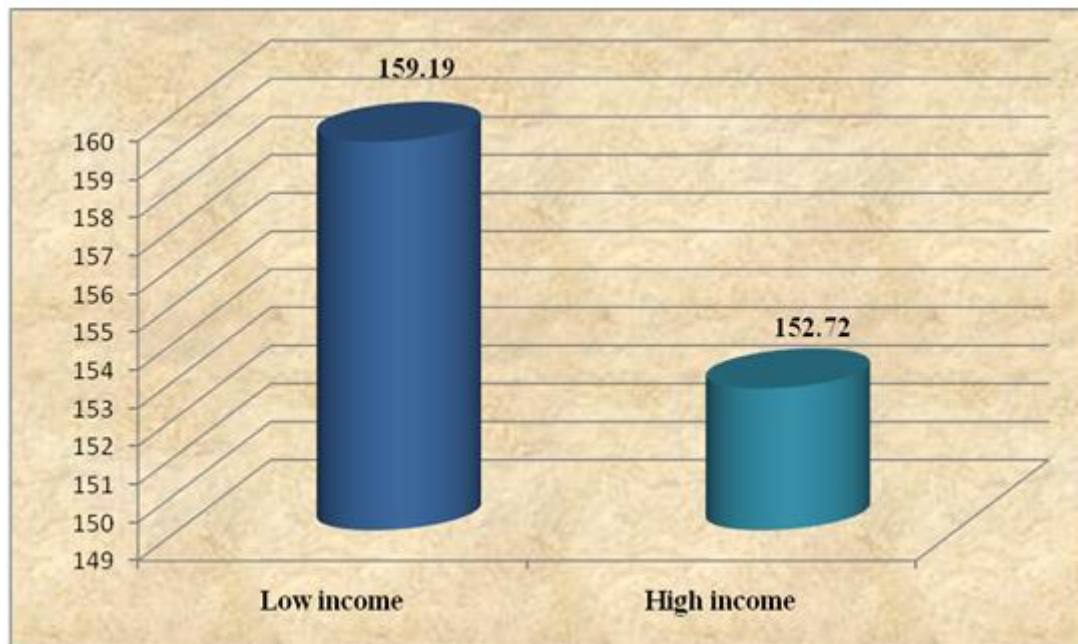
The present findings are also clearly seen in Graph no. 2 designed on the basis of obtained result.

Graph no. 2

Graph Showing Mean Scores of maternal acceptance-rejection with reference to total monthly income of family of the upper primary pupils

X = Total monthly income of family (Low A1 and High A2)

Y = 1.00 Sem. = 2.0 Average Score



Conclusion:

There is a significant and reliable difference in maternal acceptance-rejection between joint and nuclear families. Therefore, it is clear that the proportion of maternal rejection among pupils from joint families is higher than that of pupils from nuclear families.

There is a significant difference in maternal acceptance-rejection among pupils based on the total monthly income of the family. The level of maternal rejection is higher in pupils from low-income families, while the level of maternal acceptance is higher in pupils from high-income families.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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