

A study on early childhood experience of single child and its influence the marital well-being of single born children in their adulthood in Tiruchirappalli city.

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Abstract

The single child families are rise in developing nations are observed as a new trend in population, it develops low fertility. Especially India Human Development survey 2004 released that about 16 percent of women with a college degree seem to have stopped after one child, and that 13 percent of those living in the metro cities. There are many reasons increasing single child families such as modernization, technology development, late marriage, economic pressure, women getting higher level jobs... but the absence of siblings result, the single child loss their intimacy, interpersonal relationship, taking responsibilities, sharing. This early childhood experience could affect the child later stage. So the researcher has selected early childhood experience of single child it influence the marital well-being of single born children in their adulthood stage. Quantitative descriptive design has been used to describe the parent child behavior pattern and marital well-being of the respondents. A sample size of 100 adults was studied through snow ball sampling method by using standardized inventory. The self designed general information questionnaire was used to collect the demographic information of the respondents. The parent child inventory (R.S. Sandhya, 2016) and marital well-being (Dr. P.S. Fashiya and Dr. C. Jayan, 2018) were used to assess the parent child behavior pattern and marital well-being of single child respectively. The results of the study revealed that there was a significant relationship between parent child behavior pattern and marital well being of single child in their adulthood age at 0.01 level (Karl pearson co efficient of correlation).

Keywords: *single child, parent-child behavior, marital well-being, adulthood, siblings*

Review of literature

Only children are children who grow up without siblings. They have been stereotyped as selfish, lonely, and maladjusted. Early in the twentieth century, the emerging discipline of psychology portrayed only children as inevitably pathological. However, since that time, hundreds of studies about only children have been conducted, and the over-all conclusion is that only children are no more selfish, lonely, or maladjusted than people who grow up with siblings. Thus, the maturing discipline of

psychology no longer views only children as inevitably pathological. (Felbo and Poston 1993).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design

This study aims to describing the socio-economic status, parent child behaviour pattern of the single child families and its influence in the marital well-being of adulthood single child. Hence the researcher has adopted descriptive design.

Objectives

1. To describe the socio-demographic factors of the respondents.
2. To assess the level of parent child behaviour pattern.
3. To assess the level of marital well-being of the respondents.

Hypothesis

- ❖ There is a significant difference between gender and parent child behavior pattern
- ❖ There is a significant difference between gender and marital well-being of the respondents
- ❖ There is a significant between type of family and marital well-being of the respondents.
- ❖ There was a significant relationship between income of the respondents and marital well-being
- ❖ There is a significant relationship between number of children and marital well-being of the respondents..

Measures

- A self prepared structured questionnaire was used to collect socio-demographic data.

Parent child behavior pattern

Parent child behavior pattern inventory developed by R.S. Sandhya, (2016) was used for this study. The researcher has slightly modified and found out the reliability of the tool to be .751. It was a 4 point scale with 65 questions which were further grouped into 3 dimensions such as interaction with parents, single child disposition, and nature of friendship.

Inclusion criteria

1. Adulthood single children in the age group of 23 to 44 living in Trichirappalli city.
2. Marital well-being of single children in their adulthood stage
3. Both working and non working male and female who were raised as single children.
4. Adult single children comes under married category but not necessary to have children.

Exclusion criteria

This study has some limitations, those are,

1. This study concentrates on the adult single child's life. But, the information's of the respondents' parents and the respondents' families like spouse or children are not covered in this present study.

2. Unmarried single children are also not covered
3. Area of the study has been restricted to Trichy city only.
4. There was the limitation regarding the size of the sample. The size is limited. So the findings of this research cannot be generalized.

Marital well-being inventory

Marital well-being scale was developed by Dr. Fashiya . P.S., Dr. C. Jayan, (2018) and this inventory was used for the present study to find out marital well-being of adult single child. This inventory measures the level of marital relationship between the respondents and their spouses. This inventory consists of 70 items and grouped into 6 dimensions namely Communication, Intimacy, Concern for relation, Commitment, Personal characteristics, Romanticism. All items are positive in nature. The reliability coefficient for the present study was found to be .987 using Cronbach's Alpha split half method.

Sample design

Snow ball sampling was used to identify the respondents. The first respondents was identified in Annamalai Nagar, Trichirappalli, Tamil Nadu, which was the source of identifying further respondents. Thus, the research data were collected from 100 respondents.

Results

In the socio demographic data with regard to gender of the respondents, it was found that nearly half of the respondents (48 percent) were male and more than half of the respondents (52 percent) were female further more than half (54 percent) of the respondents are from Nuclear family and nearly half (46 percent) of the respondents are from joint family. Regarding the monthly income of the respondents, less than one third (31 percent & 34 percent) of the respondents earned income ranges from Rs. 5000 to Rs.20000 and Rs.20000 to Rs.40000 while less than one-fifth (18 percent) of the respondent's monthly income range from Rs.40000 to Rs.60000 and meager proportion (8 percent, 6 percent and 3 percent) of the respondents monthly income ranges from Rs.60000 to 80000, Rs.80000 to Rs.100000 and Rs. 100000 to 120000 respectively. Regarding the number of children of the respondents, more than half (53 percent) of the respondents have only one child for them while More than one

third (35 percent) of the respondents have two children and few (12 percent) of the respondents have no child.

Table-1 Gender and parent child behavior pattern

Table -1 “t’ test between Gender and various dimensions of parent child behavior pattern

S. NO	Dimensions of parent child behavior pattern and gender	Mean	Standard deviation	Statistical Inferences
1.	Interaction with parents Male (n=48) Female(n=52)	99.84 106.62	11.094 10.596	t=1.298 p<0.05 significant
2.	single child disposition Male (n=48) Female (n=52)	60.84 63.74	5.538 7.315	t=2.369 p<0.05 significant
3.	Nature of friendship Male (n=48) Female (n=52)	27.96 29.82	4.426 3.800	t=1.475 p<0.05 significant
4.	overall parent child behavior pattern Male (n=48) Female (n=52)	 188.64 200.18	 17.407 18.412	 t=.805 p<0.05 significant

Table -1 revealed that the there was a significant difference between gender and parent child behavior pattern of the respondents with regard to the dimensions such as interaction with parents, single child disposition, nature of friendship and overall parent child behavior pattern. The mean score revealed in all dimensions like interaction with parents

(Male=99.84, Female=106.62), single child disposition (Male=60.84, Female=63.74), nature of friendship (Male=27.96, Female=29.82) and overall parent child behavior pattern (Male=188.64, Female=200.18) male respondents had perceived low level of parent child behavior pattern than female.

Table-2 Gender and marital well-being

Table -2 “t’ test between Gender and various dimensions of marital well-being

S.N	Dimensions of marital well-being and gender	Mean	Standard deviation	Statistical Inferences

1	Communication Male (n=48) Female (n=52)	53.28 52.14	9.265 10.242	t=.114 p>0.05 Not significant
2	Intimacy Male (n=48) Female (n=52)	51.40 50.44	10.184 10.320	t=.665 p<0.05 Significant
3	Concern for relation Male (n=48) Female (n=52)	92.30 89.80	19.583 17.805	t=.071 p>0.05 Not significant
4	Commitment Male (n=48) Female (n=52)	37.30 36.00	8.024 7.497	t=.224 p>0.05 Not significant
5	Personal characteristics Male (n=48) Female (n=52)	23.26 21.52	4.526 4.803	t=.792 p<0.05 Significant
6	Romanticism Male (n=48) Female (n=52)	16.96 16.62	3.891 4.677	t=5.165 p<0.05 Significant
7.	Overall marital well-being Male (n=48) Female (n=52)	274.50 266.52	51.445 50.409	t=.233 p>0.05 Not significant

Table-2 showed that there was a significant difference between gender and marital well-being of the respondents with regard to the dimensions intimacy, personal characteristics, and romanticism. The mean score revealed that the female respondents had received low level of

marital well-being with regard to the dimension intimacy (Male=51.40, Female=50.44), personal characteristics (Male=23.26, Female=21.52), and romanticism (Male=16.96, Female=16.62).

Table-3 Type of family and marital well-being

Table-3 “t” test between Type of family and various dimensions of marital well-being

S.N	Variables	Mean	Standard Deviation	Statistical Inference
1	Communication	53.76	7.971	t=2.171 p<0.05 Significant
	Nuclear Family (n:54)	51.48	11.432	
	Joint family (n:46)			

2	Intimacy			
	Nuclear Family (n:54)	51.39	7.944	t=4.617 p<0.05 Significant
	Joint family (n:46)	50.37	12.430	
3	Concern for relation			
	Nuclear Family (n:126)	92.56	12.775	t=5.622 p<0.05 Significant
	Joint family (n:94)	89.28	23.835	
4	Commitment			
	Nuclear Family (n:54)	37.57	5.311	t=9.813 p<0.05 Significant
	Joint family (n:46)	35.57	9.838	
5	Personal characteristics			
	Nuclear Family (n:54)	23.15	3.483	t=9.775 p<0.05 Significant
	Joint family (n:46)	21.50	5.773	
6	Romanticism			
	Nuclear Family (n:54)	16.85	3.703	t=2.853 p<0.05 Significant
	Joint family (n:46)	16.72	4.920	
7	Marital well-being overall			
	Nuclear Family (n:54)	275.28	35.892	t=7.249 p<0.05 Significant
	Joint family (n:46)	264.91	64.091	

Table-3 revealed that there was a significant difference between type of family of the respondents and marital well-being with regard to the dimension communication, intimacy, concern for relation, commitment, personal characteristics, romanticism and overall marital well-being. The mean score showed that the respondents who were lived in joint family have perceived low level of marital well-being with regard to the dimensions

communication(Nuclear family=53.76, Joint family=51.48), intimacy(Nuclear family=51.39, Joint family=50.37) concern for relation(Nuclear family=92.56, Joint family=89.28), commitment(Nuclear family=37.57, Joint family=35.57), personal characteristics(Nuclear family=23.15, Joint family=21.50), romanticism(Nuclear family=16.85, Joint family=16.72) and overall marital well-

being(Nuclear family=275.28, Joint family=264.91).

Table-4 Income and marital well-being

Table-4 Karl Pearson coefficient Correlation between Income and various dimensions of marital well-being

S.N	Variables	Pearson Correlation	Statistical Inference
1	Income-Communication	0.079	P>0.05 Not Significant
2	Income-Intimacy	0.096	P>0.05 Not Significant
3	Income-Concern for relation	0.126	P>0.05 Not Significant
4	Income-Commitment	0.108	P>0.05 Not Significant
5	Income-Personal characteristics	0.160	P>0.05 Not Significant
6	Income-Romanticism	0.173	P>0.05 Not Significant
7	Income-Overall marital well-being	0.125	P>0.05 Not Significant

There was no significant relationship between the income of the respondents and marital well-being with regard to the dimensions communication, intimacy, concern for relation, commitment, personal characteristics, romanticism, and overall marital well-being.

Table-5 Number of children and marital well-being

Table-5 Karl Pearson coefficient Correlation between Number of children and various dimensions of marital well-being

S.N	Variables	Pearson Correlation	Statistical Inference
1	Number of children-Communication	-.056	P>0.05 Not Significant
2	Number of children-Intimacy	-.167	P>0.05 Not Significant
3	Number of children -Concern for relation	-.205*	P<0.05 Significant
4	Number of children -Commitment	-.216*	P<0.05 Significant
5	Number of children-Personal characteristics	-.246*	P<0.05 Significant
6	Number of children-Romanticism	-.150	P>0.05 Not Significant
7	Number of children-Overall marital well-being	-.188	P>0.05 Not Significant

Table-5 revealed that there was a significant relationship between number of children and marital well being of the respondents with regard to the dimensions commitment, concern for relation, personal characteristics.

Discussions

In the present study, a careful examination of the factual data of the present descriptive study indicates that the parent child behavior pattern and gender of the respondents, the mean score revealed that the male children have perceived low level of parent child behavior pattern. Mostly single child family parents followed permissive or authoritarian parenting style. In that permissive parenting are over indulgent and makes few demands towards their children. This type of parents engages in little control of their children's behavior. Permits the child to make many decisions whether it is right or wrong. Children of permissive parents have great difficulty in controlling their impulses and are disobedient and rebellious when asked to do something. So the children are overly demanding and dependent on adults.

In the present study revealed, as for as our culture is concerned the birth of boy is preferred and celebrated where as the birth of girl child is not welcomed and a girl child is considered a burden and a liability and a kind of parentage. In this context treat their daughter special, when she is pampered, girl children consider it as a privilege being born a single child and enjoyed their position, whereas boy children obviously enjoy these privileges sanctioned by Indian culture, they don't view it as a privilege rather they consider it as a problem or they don't like to be controlled, or pampered. Sometimes pampering is viewed as controlling. This kind of attitudes of boy children may be the reason for their low level parent child behavior pattern.

In the present study revealed, that there was a significant difference between gender of the respondents and marital well-being. The means score revealed that the female respondents had perceived low level of marital well-being. The single child might lived without siblings result loneliness, anger, lack of emotion, suppressed some feelings. Further they might be nurturing under authoritarian parenting style like high expectation, extremely strict, enforcing good

behavior through psychological control like threats, shaming, and other punishment. So the single child perceived low level of warmth and responsiveness from their parents. When single female children move to another family after marriage they have felt more anxiety and depression problem because they need to taking care of their own new family. Female children might be lived in a very embarrassing situation because they might take care of their parents with the help of their husband families. Another important point that the female single child after marriage they live in the memory of the parents. Further, they might not know spoken words, gentle touch, cuddles and hugs are important to maintain good intimacy among couples. So it might be reason for lack of intimacy, personal characteristics and leads to lack of romanticism among couples.

In the present study described, there was a significant difference between family type and marital well-being of the respondents with regard to the dimensions such as communication, intimacy, concern for relation, commitment, personal characteristics, romanticism and over all marital well-being. The mean score revealed that the respondents lived in joint family system after marriage had perceived low level of marital well-being. In marital well-being who was lived along with in-laws having low level of marital well-being due to the fact the respondents might be nuclear family before marriage and might not have and accept new way of life. Further, they couldn't get elders proper guidance which they failed to practice from their parents before marriage.

There was a significant relationship between number of children and marital well-being of the respondents with regard to the dimension concern for relation, commitment, personal characteristics. Since childhood they were brought up solely and enjoyed all benefits without sharing but after marriage they might be adjust with their family members, taking responsibility, concern others in their family which might be new experience. Further, they might have rearing their own children with anxiety and feared because absence of siblings. Hence, both couples were from single child families and lack of experience of bringing up a younger brother or sister, so they usually faced

more troubles once they have their own children, further they might have unable to tackle more number of children so if they might have more number of children they should commit and work hard to manage their children.

CONCLUSIONS

In India, the level of fertility rate may decrease in fourth coming years. It may leads to increasing single child families. In this modern era single child family is more apt in developing countries. In this situation we should concentrate parenting style. It's only the resources to bringing up the child as a good citizen as well as good family members. In the present study revealed, that the nearly half of the respondents have low level of parent child behavior pattern. Parents help their children move forward but they allowing them to figure out the problem for themselves make their own age –appropriate decisions dependence upon their situations, it might be help the child to protect from hardships and dangers. Parents should insist them to understand the realities. After marriage single child should mingle with in laws and their close relatives. Dependence upon their parenting based on their socialization the young adult can behave others.

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