

Original Article

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

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Abstract

Main objective of the study is to find out the impact of types of family and total monthly income of family on parental acceptance-rejection among upper primary school pupils. 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. The parental acceptance-rejection scale developed (Rohner, R. P., 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, pupils living in joint families experience comparatively less parental acceptance and may have a higher level of rejection, whereas in a nuclear family the pupils experience comparatively more parental acceptance and may have a lower level of rejection. The level of paternal acceptance is lower in pupils from low income families and the level of rejection is higher, while the level of acceptance is higher in pupils from high income families.

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

Introduction:

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).

Children do not develop in a vacuum; their understanding of the world—and of themselves—is deeply shaped by how they are treated by their primary caregivers. Among the most powerful influences on a kid's emotional and psychological development is the experience of existence accepted or rejected by their parentages. Whether conveyed through physical affection, words of encouragement, or emotional availability, parental acceptance provides the emotional foundation for a child's secure self-concept and mental well-being. Conversely, parental rejection—expressed through neglect, hostility, or withdrawal—can lead to deep-seated feelings of insecurity, low self-worth, and psychological maladjustment.

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 behavioral modification of children and adults across cultures (Rohner, 2004).

At its core, PAR Theory posits that children everywhere have a biologically-based need for parental acceptance, and when this need is unmet,

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they are likely to develop a common constellation of emotional and behavioral responses. These include increased anxiety, dependence or defensive individuality, hostility, decreased self-esteem, and a negative worldview. Importantly, it is not just *actual* parental behavior that matters, but how the child *perceives* that behavior. Thus, two children with similar parents may experience vastly different psychological outcomes based on their interpretations of those interactions.

Aims of the study:

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

Hypothesis:

H0₁ There is no significant difference in the paternal acceptance rejection of pupils from joint and nuclear families.

H0₂ There is no significant difference in the paternal 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-Table. No.1

N=600

Mean, SD and 't' value of paternal 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

According to table no.1 the mean score of respondents from joint families (Mean = 160.62) is higher than the mean score of respondents from nuclear families (Mean = 151.73). That is, the level of

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.

parental acceptance is lower in joint families and parental rejection is higher, while in nuclear families, acceptance is higher. The 't' value is 4.09, which makes this difference statistically significant

at the 0.01 level. This result indicates that pupils living in joint families experience comparatively less parental acceptance and may have a higher level of rejection, whereas in a nuclear family the pupils experience comparatively more parental acceptance and may have a lower level of rejection. On the basis of the present result null hypothesis no. 1 was not accepted.

Given the possible reasons for such results, it can be said that, In a joint family, children may spend more time with other members, which results in less direct emotional contact with the

Graph no. 1

Graph Showing Mean Scores of paternal 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

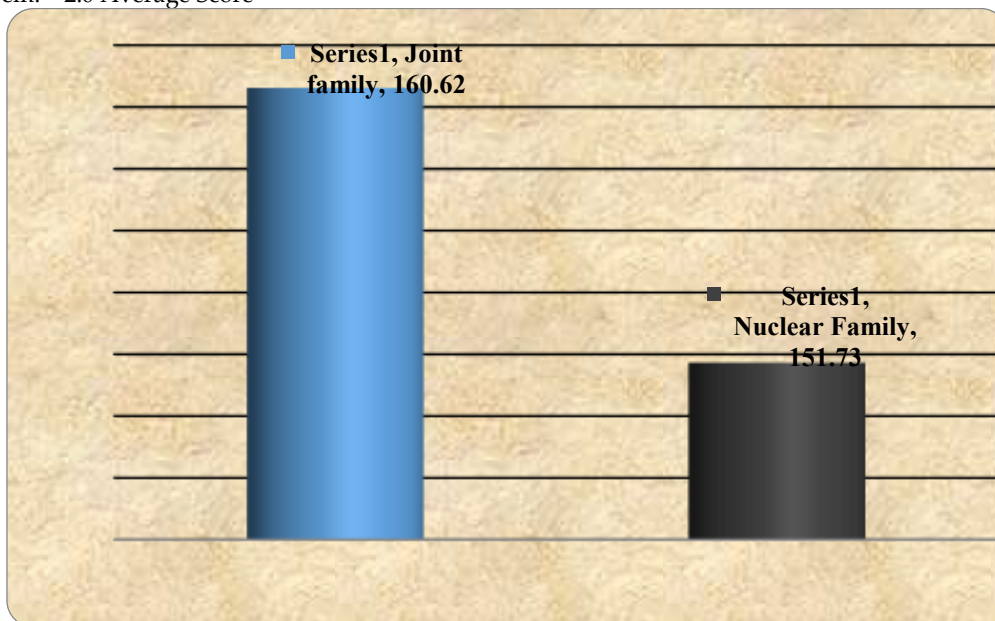


Table. No.2

N=600

Mean, SD and 't' value of paternal 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	156.41	26.08	3.95*
High (more than 10000/-)	313	147.90	26.64	

*-p>0.01

The 't' value obtained is 3.95 shown in table 2, which makes this difference statistically significant at the 0.01 level. The mean score (Mean = 156.41) of pupils from low income families is higher than the mean score (Mean = 147.90) of pupils from high income families. That is, the level of paternal acceptance is lower in pupils from low income families and the level of rejection is higher, while the level of acceptance is higher in pupils from high income families. Basis of this findings null hypothesis no. 2 was not accepted.

father. While on the other side in a nuclear family, the emotional bond between father and child is strengthened as there is more time and communication, which helps in increasing acceptance. In a nuclear family, parents are more aware of treating the child in a friendly and equal manner, which leads to a greater sense of acceptance.

The present findings are also clearly seen in Graph no. 1 designed on the basis of obtained result.

Possible causes of the result it can be say that, Low-income families are more likely to experience financial stress and uncertainty, which can lead to fathers feeling stressed. This stress can manifest itself in their behavior as harshness or neglect. On other side higher income families have more financial security, which means fathers experience less stress, which helps them be more loving and supportive towards their children.

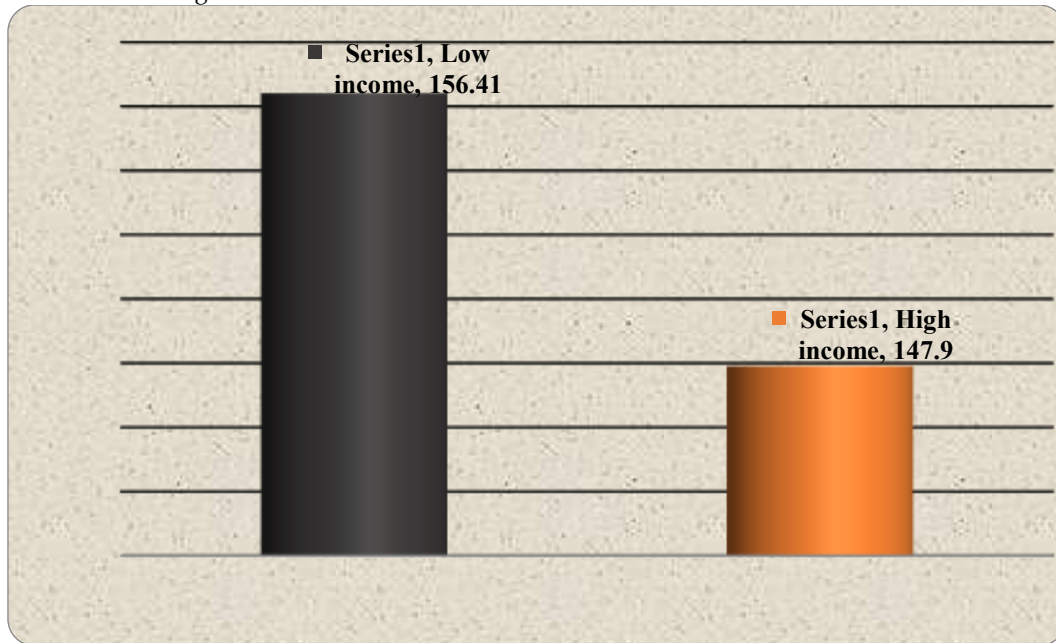
The present findings are also clearly seen in Graph no. 2 designed on the basis of obtained result.

Graph no. 2

Graph Showing Mean Scores of paternal 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:

1. Pupils living in joint families experience comparatively less parental acceptance and may have a higher level of rejection, whereas in a nuclear family the pupils experience comparatively more parental acceptance and may have a lower level of rejection.
2. The level of paternal acceptance is lower in pupils from low income families and the level of rejection is higher, while the level of 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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