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Demographic Characteristics and Socio-Economic Status of Rural Adolescent Girls

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ABSTRACT

Socio-economic demographic variables and socio-economic status are the essential factors to provide a proper result in every study. The present study aims to study demographic characteristics and socio-economic status of the adolescent girls in rural areas. A total of 414 adolescent girls were randomly selected for the study. They were administered Personal information sheet and SES scale developed by Meenakshi (2004). The study revealed Majority of the sample belonged to average SES (57.0%), followed by 19.8% of the selected sample had above average SES, 13.0% of them had below average SES, 8.2% of them had high SES and remaining 1.9% of them were in poor SES level.

Keywords: Adolescent, Rural girls, Socio-demographic characteristics, Socio-economic status

A complete understanding of adolescence relies on various information from different perspectives which include psychology, education, biology, history, sociology and anthropology. Within all of these perspectives, adolescence is viewed as a transitional period between childhood and adulthood, whose cultural purpose is the preparation of children for adult roles. It is a period of multiple transitions involving education, training, employment, and unemployment, as well as transitions from one living circumstance to another (Coleman, 1998).

Socio demographic features are essential for completion of any research. The demographics mean a particular feature of population and derived from Greek words demos (for people) and graphy (picture). The demographic characteristics include age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, caste, reservation category, education, domicile, marital status, family size, disability status and economic status. In survey research the socio demographic variables are independent variables.

Teresa (1970) studied the impact of biological and socioeconomic variables on the age at menarche, body stature and weight of rural adolescent girls in Poland. There was a critical distinction in age at menarche between adolescent girls of various provincial groups.

Ersoy *et. al.*(2004) Impacts of various financial conditions on menarche in Turkish female students. In this investigation they are chosen 1017 female adolescent students in the secondary schools of Manisa locale. Height and weight were estimated. The weight list (BMI; kg/m2) was utilized as a file of relative weight. Adolescent girls were gathered into three financial status as per the educational and work related dimensions of their parents. The age at menarche and the menarcheal example were assessed by the financial status. The times of adolescent girls engaged with the investigation went somewhere in the range of 14 and 18 years, with a mean of 15.7±1.1 years. In spite of the fact that the menarcheal age was observed to be lower in adolescent girls with higher financial status, there was no critical contrast between the three distinctive financial status. In the majority of the three gatherings, menarche was more typical in summer and fall than in spring and winter. In spite of the fact that the mother was a significant wellspring of learning in all gatherings, it was altogether increasingly significant in the gathering with high financial status. Adolescent girls with low financial status had less premenstrual grievances. Be that as it may, there was no noteworthy contrast between the gatherings. We found a converse connection between's menarcheal age and post-menarcheal weight and the BMI (r=−0.14, p=0.000). In any case, there was no relationship between's menarcheal age and post-menarcheal height. These outcomes demonstrate that as the societal position contrasts decline, the distinction saw in menarcheal age and example vanishes in urban regions of creating nations. Menarcheal age might be a pointer of financial advancement. It doesn't impact post-menarcheal stature; in any case, as menarcheal age diminishes BMI increments.

METHODOLOGY

Participants
The study comprised of 414 adolescent girls from the Bangalore rural district, who were aged around 16.34 ± 1.46 and were randomly selected.

Tools employed
Following tools were employed for the present study
1. Personal information sheet: - To be developed by the investigator regarding demographic details of the participants.
2. Socio-economic status scale (Meenakshi, 2004)
The scale consists of seven parts namely (a) Education (b) Profession (c) Monthly Income (d) Total wealth in cash or debits, (e) Property (f) Surrounding Locality (g) Social status in life. Here, is an effort to measure an individual's socio-economic status in a society which he is surrounded by and of which he is a member which he affects and is affected by.

Procedure
The author visited selected high schools and pre university colleges in Bengaluru rural district to got permission from the respective authorities and collect the data from 414 adolescent girls. Before administrating the questionnaires, they were assured of confidentiality. They were asked to answer all the questions. Once the data were collected, they were scored and fed to the computer. Table 1 provides Distribution of the selected sample by developmental age and related factors. Table 2 shows Distribution of the selected sample by various levels of Socio-economic status and results of chi-square test.

RESULTS

Table 1 Distribution of the selected sample by developmental age and related factors

Variable	Sub-variable		Developmental age		Total
			Mid	Late	
Overall	-	F	139	275	414
		%	33.6%	66.4%	100.0%
Type of family	Nuclear	F	111	165	276
		%	79.9%	60.0%	66.7%
	Joint	F	28	110	138
		%	20.1%	40.0%	33.3%
Religion	Hindu	F	130	262	392
		%	93.5%	95.6%	94.9%
	Christian	F	5	10	15
		%	3.6%	3.6%	3.6%
	Islam	F	2	2	4
		%	1.4%	0.7%	1.0%
	Others	F	2	0	2
		%	1.4%	0.0%	0.5%
Education	Below 10th std.	F	139	77	216
		%	100.0%	28.0%	52.2%
	PUC	F	0	198	198
		%	0.0%	72.0%	47.8%
Income (in Rs.)	<5,000	F	24	59	83
		%	17.3%	21.5%	20.0%
	5000-10,000	F	82	104	186
		%	59.0%	37.8%	44.9%
	10000-15,000	F	19	67	86
		%	13.7%	24.4%	20.8%
	>15,000	F	14	45	59
		%	10.1%	16.4%	14.3%

Demographic details: A total of 414 adolescent girls were selected through stratified random technique from rural areas of Bangalore district. Of the 414 sample selected, 139 were in mid adolescent stage and remaining 275 were in late adolescent stage. Mid adolescent girls constituted 33.6% of the sample selected and late adolescent girls constituted 66.4% of the sample selected.

Type of Family: Majority of the sample belonged to nuclear family to an extent of 66.7% and remaining 33.3% of them belonged joint families. In mid-adolescence, we find that 79.9% and 20.1% of the sample belonged to nuclear and joint families respectively, where as in late adolescence, 60.0% and 40.0% of the sample belonged to nuclear and joint families respectively.

Religion: A large majority of the sample belonged to Hindu religion to the extent of 94.9%, 3.6% of them were Christians, 1.0% of them belonged to Islam religion, and 0.5% of the sample belonged to other religion. This pattern of the response was found to be same in mid and adolescent stages.

Education: A total of 52.2% of the adolescent girls were studying in 10th or below and 47.8% of them were studying in PUC. All the girls belonging to mid adolescent stage were studying in 10th or below and 72.0% of the adolescent girls belonging to late adolescent stage were studying in PUC.

Income: It was found that 20.0% of the sample had their family income less than Rs. 5000, 44.9% of them had their family income Rs. 5000-10,000, 20.8% of them had their family income from Rs. 10,000 to 15000 and remaining 14.3% of them had their family income more than Rs. 15,000. Among mid adolescents, 17.3% of the sample had their family income less than Rs. 5000, 59.0% of them had their family income Rs. 5000-10,000, 13.7% of them had their family income from Rs. 10,000 to 15000 and remaining 10.1% of them had their family income more than Rs. 15,000. However, among late

adolescents, 21.5% of the sample had their family income less than Rs. 5000, 37.8% of them had their family income Rs. 5000-10,000, 24.4% of them had their family income from Rs. 10,000 to 15000 and remaining 16.4% of them had their family income more than Rs. 15,000

2: SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

Table 2 Distribution of the selected by various levels of Socio-economic status and results of chi-square test

SES level	Frequency	Percent
Poor	8	1.9
Below average	54	13.0
Average	236	57.0
Above average	82	19.8
High	34	8.2
Total	414	100.0
Chi-square = 389.81; p=.001		

From the above table it is clear that majority of the sample belonged to average SES (57.0%), followed by 19.8% of the selected sample had above average SES, 13.0% of them had below average SES, 8.2% of them had high SES and remaining 1.9% of them were in poor SES level. When chi-square test was applied to find out the significance of frequency differences of various levels of SES, Chi-square test revealed a significant difference (Chi-square = 389.81; p=.001), revealing that majority of the sample had average SES and very few of them were in poor SES.

DISCUSSION

Major findings of the study

The analysis of SES of the selected sample clearly revealed that majority of the sample belonged to average SES (57.0%), followed by 19.8% of the selected sample had above average SES, 13.0% of them had below average SES, 8.2% of them had high SES and remaining 1.9% of them were in poor SES level.

The investigations on socio-economic status (SES) in social sciences have been established to a good extent. Socio-economic status indicates to an individual's or family's social position or social status (Graetz, 1995). It's vital to think about the impacts of socio-economic status on developmental results, since socio-economic status has been related with physical wellbeing, socio-emotional working, and cognitive developmental results in adolescents and young children (Brooks Gunn & Duncan, 1997; Duncan & Magnuson, 2003). Parental education, salary, and occupation, or the combination of any these signs are used every now and again as markers of socio-economic status in social science study.

Socio-economic status of adolescent females has a huge impact over the various bio-psycho-social issues in relation to them. In one of the studies conducted by De (2017), it was discovered that the combined impact of Socio-economic status on families, neighborhoods, schools, and human services ensures that poor and low-income adolescents reach young adulthood in more terrible wellbeing, participating in more

dangerous and increasingly risky practices, and with lower educational qualification and more restricted vocation prospects than their peers. Socio-economic status impact nourishing status of adolescents, higher income group family's kids have higher weight. An investigation by Arias *et al* (2018) used social network to dissect basic factors of centrality from a socio-centric point of view. They found that teenagers with a medium to low SES introduced a two-overlay higher likelihood of being overweight, yet the researchers did not identify any distinctions in the design of their informal communities when contrasted and those of ordinary weight adolescents. Although, they found critical contrasts in the development of systems as indicated by SES in the general example and disaggregated by sexual orientation, whereby adolescents with a high SES when all is said in done exhibited a higher ability to shape more extensive interpersonal networks. Explaining the connection among SES and overweight and its impact on interpersonal networks arrangement can add to the structure of precaution methodologies against overweight and corpulence in young people, since their social condition can give them a few resources to overcome excess weight.

Socio demographic variables have a vibrant role to understanding the issues and difficulties of adolescents. Each socio demographic variables are important in research works. Every researcher should have to make a proper socio demographic variable in their studies. Teresa (1970) studied the impact of biological and socioeconomic variables on the age at menarche, body stature and weight of rural adolescent girls in Poland. There was a critical distinction in age at menarche between adolescent girls of various provincial groups. Socio-economic status of rural adolescent girls has a huge impact over the various biological, psychological and social issues in relation to them.

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