

A Comparative Study on Social Competency of Adolescents Living with and Without Grandparents

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Abstract

As we become older, we learn specific social skills from others who enter our lives and try to teach us about it. Social competency and adolescence (12-19y) go hand in hand; it is the skill that helps us build and maintain greater ties with one another. There are occasionally young people who do not have the chance to grow or retain their social skills. To learn more about what educates an adolescent to be socially and emotionally competent in various situations, we sought an explanation for why we had chosen this issue. This study's goal is to evaluate and compare the level of social competency among adolescents living with and without grandparents. The Social Competency Scale, created by Punita Rani and Latika Sharma, was taken. The sample size was set to 86. Chi-square test was used to analyze the categorical variables. The findings indicated that both the adolescents living with/without grandparents have comparable social skills.

Keywords: social competency, adolescents, gender.

1. Introduction

According to Greenspan (1981), social competence is "that portion of an individual's perceived effectiveness in interpersonal situations and social roles which is attributable to qualities of temperament, character, and social awareness". It refers to a more general phrase that denotes a person's social effectiveness and defines their capacity to create and sustain meaningful relationships with others while avoiding unfavourable treatment or victimisation at the hands of others. Anxiety, the social environment, and an individual's social compatibility are all factors that might influence social competency. In order to learn and survive, humans need social skills and experiences. Socialisation, which basically represents the entire learning process over the course of one's life and is based on the actions of adults as well as children in addition to various types of influences like peer group, cultural influences, All of Kohlberg, Erickson, and Mead's research and experiments demonstrated the importance of familial factors on socialisation. At this age, the majority of us have no idea of who or what our great grandparents were like. However, it's thought that this generation will be able to have at least one great grandparent in modern times. The parental responsibilities of a great grandparent are largely comparable to those of a grandparent; some nearly always continue in the position, while others raise or provide child care for their great grandchildren. There are obstacles to this, including the fact that it was stated that there were difficulties with the way their grandkids were growing up due to the integration of technology and age-related physiological disorders. Peer interactions are crucial for people during adolescence since it's during this time that identities are formed or that one gets a feeling of who they are and aspire to be. Adolescents connect with their friends while trying on various social roles or activities. To put it simply, they use a trial-and-error approach to determine what would be deemed appropriate or passable in a social setting. Additionally, adolescents move away from their parents and attempt to function independently as adults. Peer relationships from childhood serve as a training ground for adult interpersonal interactions. Here, we wanted to determine whether the presence of grandparents would cause a change in the behaviour of teenagers in particular social situations because, in most cases, when a teenager is aware of their grandparent's presence, they will act in ways that will make them feel good about themselves. When it comes to altruistic care and attention, grandparents have historically been the centre of attention. They are frequently portrayed favourably in all types of media, which offers people a reason to aspire to be like them.

2. Materials and Method

Proposed Hypothesis: Level of social competency is similar between the adolescent living/lived with grandparents compared to those who aren't living with grandparents.

Procedure and Data Collection: The goal of this study is to investigate the social competence difference among adolescents who live with and without their grandparents. According to Erik Erikson, adolescents are those between the ages of 12 - 19 years old. Data analysis was done using a cross-sectional research approach. For the purpose of collecting samples from 86 adolescents, the convenience sampling method was used. Latika Sharma and Punita Rani's social competency questionnaire was employed. The scale has 47 items with the following response options: "Always", "Sometimes", "Mostly", "Never" The total score obtained from the respondents is then classified as "very good" (168-188), "Good" (148-167), "Average" (108-147), "Poor" (78-107), "Very poor" (47-77)". This scale evaluates three more factors: communication skills, interpersonal adequacy, and personal adequacy. The person's name, age, gender, and profession were collected as demographic data. SPSS version 20.0 was used to statistically evaluate this data. In order to evaluate continuous variables and analyse the social skill differences between the groups. A Chi-square test and proportions were employed to assess the categorical variables. Statistical significance was defined as a p-value 0.05.

Data Analysis and Results: Adolescents and respondents' levels of social competency were the study's key determinants. Level of social competency is similar between the adolescent living/lived with grandparents compared to those who aren't living with grandparents was the main goal. adolescents who lived with their grandparents in the past or do so now (group 1) as well as those who do not (group 2) The Chi-Square Test of Independence was utilized which examines if categorical variables are associated (that is, whether the variables are connected or independent). A contingency table is used in this test to analyse the data. A contingency table is an arrangement in which data is categorised in accordance with two categorical variables (also known as a cross-tabulation, crosstab, or two-way table).

Table 1

Current status of living with grandparents	Level of social competence		Value
	Below	Above	
	Average	Average	
Yes(n=55)	39	16	0.513
No(n=31)	24	7	

Despite group 1, which includes teenagers who live with grandparents, having a greater degree of social competence, it was determined that there was no statistically significant difference between the groups.

Table 2. Age-wise comparison of social competency among adolescents

Age	Average	Above average	P-value
Less than 15 (N=17)	11(64.7%)	6(35.3%)	0.637
16-17 (N=26)	19(73.1%)	7(26.9%)	
18-19 N=(43)	33(76.7%)	10(23.3%)	

Less than 15, 16–17, and 18–19 years old are the three age categories that are included here. Additionally, it was discovered that there were no differences between the groups and that age had no bearing on social competence.

Table 3. Gender vs. social competence

Gender	Level of social	competence	P-value
Male (n=45)	29(64.4%)	16(35.6%)	0.053
Female (n=41)	34(82.9%)	7(17.1%)	

When compared to their male counterparts, the female participants were shown to have a higher level of social competency.

Table 4. Area of living vs. social competence

Area of living	Social competency score	P-value
Rural (n=11)	126.82	
Suburban (n=35)	135.23	0.011
Urban (n=40)	141.8	

Here, we can see that the social competency was found to be high in adolescents living in the urban areas when compared with adolescents from suburban and rural areas. Here the difference between the groups was found to be statistically significant ($p=0.011$)

Significant Findings: The Shapiro-Wilkes test indicated that the data from the 86 samples, 45 male and 41 female, were normally distributed, and the results showed that both adolescent groups have similar social competency abilities.

3. Conclusion and Summary

The purpose of the study was to determine the degrees of social competence that a teenager had in relation to their upbringing, whether it included or did not include the presence of a grandmother. The goals of this study were to determine whether adolescents living with or without grandparents were affected by their grandparents and whether an adolescent's age and gender had any bearing on their ability to behave socially competently. The study had a total of roughly 87 responders, which was slightly more than we had anticipated (our objective was about 80). The groups were then divided depending on factors such as age, gender, place of residence, and whether or not grandparents were present. The findings indicate that both groups of adolescents have a comparable level of social competence.

While having a decent level in group 1 (70.9%) compared to group 2 (77.4%) in the TABLE 1 current status of living with grandparents vs. social competency, it was discovered that it was not statistically significant. (P-Value=0.513) In TABLE 2, the comparison of social competence among adolescents by age, categorising them into three age ranges: less than 15 years, 16 to 7 years, and 18 to 19 years. It was discovered that there was no difference between the groups and that age had no bearing on social competency based on the average scores we received. The number of female participants (n=39) had a high level of social competence (82.9%) compared to their male counterparts (n=29), who had a low level (64.4%), with the p value being (P=0.053) in TABLE 3, which examined gender Vs. social competence. The comparison of social competency to area of residence in TABLE 4, and we divided respondents into three groups: urban, suburban, and rural. Where it was discovered that teenagers who reside in cities have better social skills than the rest of the population, with the group being statistically significant ($p=0.011$).

In conclusion, it was discovered that the social skills of the adolescents who replied to the study were comparable. It was interesting in determining if adolescents who lived with grandparents differed significantly from those who did not. Overall, based on the responses it was received from the respondents and the analysis of the data, this study discovered that both adolescents possess comparable social skills.

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