

Patriarchal Norms, Intergenerational Gap and Mental Health of Adolescent Girls in Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract

The present paper examines the new and emerging forms of patriarchy, inter-generational conflicts and its relation to mental health of adolescent girls. The study has analyzed the perceptions of three generations, viz grandparents, parents and adolescent girls about the traditional and modern gender roles. Beck's Depression Inventory was used to assess the mental health aspect of adolescent girls. The results indicated that as compared to grandparents, parents are more open for the progressive changes in their daughters and are providing equal educational opportunities, choices of career and selection of partner. The respondents reported that the norms and values transmitted by their parents and grandparents are highly conflicting with what the present society demands from them and puts them in an indecisive state of mind equivalent to "double bind situation" which in turn leads to depression and anxiety. The results on the Beck's Depression inventory indicates that on an average the adolescent girls are on borderline and suffering from depressive tendencies.

Keywords: Gender, patriarchy, intergenerational, adolescents, mental health

Introduction

The process of women empowerment in the light of changing patriarchal ideologies in Indian society is undergoing transition. The women's movements have brought forward the relevant issues in the lives of women, in India and at global level in the forefront. The significance of women's movements will remain pertinent in this regard. The present scenario of the women in the Indian context is self-evident reflecting the efforts of women's movements in India. However, patriarchy has been existing in the Indian society in some form or the other. An effective way of understanding patriarchy and its impact on the young girls in India is through the underlining of status or existence of norms and values

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