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## Relationship between parent-child relation & children's locus of control

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### Abstract

The progress of a nation depends upon our children. Without a sound and qualitative environment healthy outcomes cannot be achieved in any aspects of life. It is about the preparation of unprepared minds. Preparation of mind is a process that involves enormous inputs and efforts on the part of all stakeholders viz parents, teachers, peers and society. The kind of home environment in which children live has a marked influence on the child's whole outlook of life. The present study scrutinizes the relationship between Parent-child relation and its impact on children's locus of control. For this purpose of study 200 sample were randomly selected. Locus of Control scale by N. Hasnain and D.D Joshi and Parent-child relation scale by Govind Tiwari were used. The analysis of data was calculated by r-test. The study explored that there is significant relationship between parent-child relation and children's locus of control.

**Keywords:** Parent-child relation, locus of control

### Introduction

The parent-child relationship has a marked influence on the child's whole outlook of life. The personality of child depends upon several factors including family composition, home environment, socialization, childhood experiences, education, socioeconomic status, parent's occupation etc. A way of reflection between parent and child relationships is parenting and it is a complex activity that includes many specific attitudes and behaviours that work separately and collectively to influence child outcomes and generate an emotional bond in which the parent's behaviours are expressed (Darling & Steinberg, 1993; Darling, 1999) [7, 8]. Human beings are always immersed in a social environment which not only changes the very structure of the individual or just compels him to recognise facts but also provides him with a ready-made system of signs. It imposes on him a series of obligations. Ram *et al.* (2014) [21] studied Parents Child relationship as a predictor of locus of control and result suggest that the rejecting parents child relationship negatively affects locus of control of the school going students. Lefcourt (1976) [14] also pointed out that parents are in a prime position to facilitate or hinder the contingency learning process. He believed warm supportive parents help to make children feel safe and secure enough to explore their environments and learn how their behavior connects to outcomes across variety of situations; internal control expectancies can develop and generalize from such experiences. In contrast, parents who neglect or reject their children may be more likely to produce anxiety that interferes with learning connections between behavior and outcomes and constricts the number and quality of children's interactions with the physical and social environments.

Locus of control is the individual's belief of where the control for the behaviours originates-internally or externally. Locus of control (Rotter, 1966) [22] is conceptualized on a dynamic bipolar continuum spanning from internal to external. Individuals with high internal locus of control believe that events in their life derive primarily from their own actions: for example, when receiving test results, people with an internal locus of control would tend to praise or blame themselves and their abilities, whereas people with an external locus of control would tend to praise or blame an external factors such as teacher or the test (N.R. Carlson, 2007) [4]. Internal locus of control, high level of internal personal trust and an active coping style were positively related to the parents who exhibit high levels of warmth, acceptance, helpfulness and low level of disapproval when interacting with their children (Mondell &

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Tyler, 1981)<sup>[16]</sup>. Huang and Prochner (2004)<sup>[13]</sup> and Piotrowski *et al.* (2012)<sup>[20]</sup> conducted studies about the effects of permissive parenting style on self-regulation and found a weak negative relationship. This helps us in estimating basic trend in the relationship between permissive style and procrastination as procrastination is negatively related to self-regulation. Locus of control can be related to some other factors such as family upbringing and education. It would be thought that it is possible to incite a type of locus of control. Literature suggests that it is possible to assist students to become into internals and thus enhance their efforts to achieve better (Beck, 1979)<sup>[2]</sup>. Locus of control plays a major role in many aspects of human behavior such as achievement motivation success-orientation, self-control, socially adjustment, independence and expectancy. Students with an internal locus of control may be more likely to do well in independent learning situations. Students with an external locus of control will need more encouragement and guidance from the instructor (Beck, 1979)<sup>[2]</sup>.

External locus of control has been associated with higher level of stress, frequent illness, psychological distress and relationship dissatisfaction (Morry, 2003; Muhonen & Torkelson, 2004; Wu, Tang, & Kwok, 2004)<sup>[17, 18, 25]</sup>. Chorpita *et al.* (1998)<sup>[6]</sup> demonstrated that locus of control mediates the relationship between a controlling parenting style and child anxiety. Research consistently suggests that children's concepts of their ability, their expectancies for success and their concepts about the relevancy or difficulty of tasks are more directly related to their parent's beliefs about their aptitude and potential than their own past performance (Eccles *et al.*, 1982; Phillips, 1987)<sup>[9, 19]</sup>. Locus of control is one of the important factor for children's academic performance. Shepherd, Owen, Fitch and Marshall (2006)<sup>[23]</sup> investigated the relationship between internal locus of control and academic achievement using a sample of 187 students in grade 8- 12. The result of the study showed that students who had higher GPA also had higher scores on internal Locus of control.

Studies shows that meta-cognitive beliefs have been found to positively associated with depression (McEvoy, Mahoney, Perini & Kingsep, 2009)<sup>[15]</sup> and also anxiety (Yilmaz, Gencoz & Wells, 2011)<sup>[26]</sup>. This emotional state can occur in many psychopathologies and is a principal aspect of the disorders. Anxiety is one of the most common psychological disorder in school-aged children and adolescents worldwide (Costello *et al.*, 2003)<sup>[5]</sup>. Bradley *et al.*, (1995) demonstrates that, home-environment shows generally stronger relation to cognitive development.

### Purpose and Hypothesis

Keeping in view the changing scenario and immediate nature of problem, present study has been undertaken. The rationale behind present study is to assess the relationship between parent child relation and locus of control of the children.

### Hypotheses

1. It is hypothesized that children from unhealthy parent child relationship would show external locus of control.
2. It is hypothesized that healthy parent child relation would be related to Internal locus of control.

### Sample

For the purpose of the study incidental cum purposive sampling method was used. 200 samples were selected. The children aged 11-16 years were chosen who live with their parent and not at hostel to fulfil the purpose of the study researcher preferred to select respondents purposively.

### Tools

**Parent-Child Relation Scale:** The present test has been developed by Govind Tiwari. This parent-Child relation test measures the attitude of Father and Mother towards various aspects of their relation to their child. The reliability of this scale is .79 (split-half) & .78 (test-retest) and validity is .69.

**Locus of Control Scale:** This locus of control scale was developed by Hasnain & D. D. Joshi (1992)<sup>[12]</sup>. This scale consists of 36 items (16 positive & 20 negative items). The present scale is a three-point scale. The highest score on the scale is 72 and the lowest is 0. The positive items are related with internal locus of control, the higher the score on the scale the more internally oriented the individual will be. The internal consistency coefficient of reliability is 0.55, reliability coefficient of temporal stability is 0.76 and 0.78.

### Procedures

Before distribution of the test booklet general information were explained. Then test-booklet administered and data were collected. The analysis of data was done according to the manual. For the purpose of this study 'r' has been calculated separately to measure healthy parent-child relation and Unhealthy parent-child relation with Locus of control. These two factors namely healthy parent-child and unhealthy parent-child relation have been discussed separately in different tables in relation with locus of control (Table-1 & Table-2).

### Result and Discussion

**Table 1:** Showing correlation between Healthy parent-child relationship and Locus of control among children.

Variables	N	r	df	P
Healthy Parent-child relation VS Locus of control	200	0.86	198	P<.01

Findings displayed in table no. 1 shows that there is positive correlation (N = 200, r = 0.86, df = 198, P < .01) between Healthy parent-child relation and Internal locus of control. It shows that healthy parent-child relation increases internal locus of control. Goldstein and Chance (1965)<sup>[10]</sup> reported that a parent who is warm, supportive, flexible, approving, consistent in discipline, and who expects early independence in his or her child's life is more likely to encourage his child's beliefs in internal control than the parent who is rejecting, punitive, dominating, and critical. Internal locus of control, high levels of internal personal trust, and an active coping style were positively related to the parents who exhibit high level of warmth, acceptance, helpfulness and low level of disapproval when interacting with their children (Mondell & Tyler, 1981)<sup>[16]</sup>. Positive parental involvement has been implicated in the development of an internal locus of control in academic contexts (Grolnick & Ryan, 1989)<sup>[11]</sup>.

**Table 2:** Showing correlation between Unhealthy parent-child relationship and Locus of control among children.

Variable	N	r	df	P
Unhealthy Parent-child relation VS Locus of Control	200	-0.72	198	P<.01

Findings displayed in table no. 2 shows that there is negative correlation ( $N = 200$ ,  $r = -0.72$ ,  $df = 198$ ,  $P < .01$ ) between Unhealthy parent-child relation and Locus of control. It shows that unhealthy parent-child relation shows low internal locus of control among the children. Research suggested that as children grow older, there is decrease in warmth and increase in restrictions on the part of their parents (Baldwin, 1947) <sup>[1]</sup>. Bradley *et al.*, (1995) <sup>[3]</sup> demonstrates that, home-environment shows generally stronger relation to cognitive development.

### Conclusion

From this small sample it was found that there is relationship between parent-child relationship and locus of control. Children from unhealthy parent child relation show low internal locus of control than that of healthy parent child relation. The researcher is fully aware of the limitation of her research work relating to the size and distribution of samples and statistical techniques applied for the analysis and the treatment of the data. The sample was not substantially large ( $N=200$ ) and the subject comprising of the sample belong to the limited areas. It would have been more remote areas of the population in order to make the sample more representative to its population.

The findings of the present study have wide implication in clinical fields and all other bodies related to home setting, parents, counsellors, mental health workers, academicians etc. Today in different ways parents and children were suffering from stress, depression, and so on related to academic achievement, so other attributes or psychological variables can be studied that can influence the parent-child relation and Locus of control of the children.

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