



Comparative Study to Assess the Cognitive and Moral Development of School Age Children of Joint Versus Nuclear Family.

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ABSTRACT:

Family is the fundamental unit of society, family consist of children, parents, grandparents as it influences the child a lot in the behavioural development. In paediatrics child consist of both child and family. Present study conducted to compare the moral and cognitive development of children between nuclear and joint family. Study objectives were to assess the cognitive and moral development of school age children in joint and nuclear family and to compare the cognitive and moral development of school age children between joint and nuclear family. A quantitative approach with Non-experimental descriptive design was used for the study. With Non-probability purposive sampling 50 children from nuclear and 50 from joint family between age group of 10-13 years were selected from schools. Cognitive development assessed by using self-prepared questionnaire and moral development by scale. Reliability of the tool done by split half method. Result showed that there is no difference between children of joint and nuclear family in cognitive development but in moral development there is statistical difference in the moral development.

Keywords: Moral development, Cognitive development, Joint family, nuclear family, school children.

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1. Introduction

Human beings are a product of their environment, is a statement we come across quite often but when we actually ponder over it, it seems that a few statements can be as precise in carrying a message. The history of civilization tells us that ours is a history of co-dependency and that in fact is why the very first humans decided to coalesce around each other is to ensure the proper nurturing of their offspring.¹ While early homo sapiens divided their labour into two, i.e. hunting and gathering, it was so as the gatherers could be able to watch over the youngest ones amongst their tribes or clans. In olden days family structure were mostly joint were grandparents, brothers, their families lives together. As centuries passed we overcame the tribal dynamics to branch out into more modern ways of living lives ie, nuclear families. It is not to say that these two are the only forms of a familial structure in the modern day and age but those that are most prominent throughout the globe²

As the young children always in contact with adults as they could not do their activities without help. It is very important that the type and culture of family which they live.³The influence a parent, a guardian or any elder has in the life of child cannot be overstated. Their attitudes towards problems and situations in life determine to some extent the outlook the child starts to view the world by. While it can be said that your values and morals are hugely shaped by those in your family.⁴ It is a different question when it comes to passing on cognitive abilities. While disabilities can be hereditary there is no major indication that intellectual forte can be passed down from parent to offspring. There are however multiple studies, conducted across countries over the world that help understand the academic and moral standing of children coming from varying households, ranging from single parent home to generational joint families⁵ This paper aims to further that need to find the correlation between the familial dynamic one grows up in and its effects on their cognitive and moral development while trying to frame the findings and conclusions in a more Indian-oriented context.⁶

Need of the study

In developing paediatrics influence of family more emphasized in development of child's health and development.⁷Paediatrics health care professionals should have knowledge about influence of family in the development of child. So it has to be incorporated in health assessment. Composition of family size and its composition has great influence in the development as the parenting practices differ in both joint and nuclear families.⁵Many factors influence on the growth and development of child in which important is family specially the culture and hereditary background.⁸ Present situation is not like previous, children are more stubborn, selfish and not ready to listen the parents and less sharing mentality. It was observed that it is more in children from nuclear family especially single child. Previous studies shows that influence of family is important, and it is important the health care professionals should know about it.⁹

Research problem statement:

A comparative study to assess the cognitive and moral development of school age children of joint versus nuclear family in selected schools.

Research objective:

1. To assess the cognitive development of school age children in joint and nuclear family.
- 2.To assess the moral development of school age children in joint and nuclear family.
- 3.To compare the cognitive development of school age children between joint and nuclear family.

4.To compare the moral development of school age children between joint family and nuclear family.

Assumptions:

1. There may be some difference in the cognitive and moral development of children between nuclear and joint family.

2. Research Methodology

The present study was conducted by using quantitative approach with Non – experimental descriptive research Design. Sample size were calculated by using power analysis. Nonprobability purposive sampling techniques were used for identification of samples.¹⁰ Fifty Children from nuclear family and 50 from joint family age group between 10-13 years were taken for the study. Children from the broken or with single parent were excluded from the study. Ethical committee permission and consent from the samples and parent were taken before conducting the study. Data collection tool had three sections. Section I with demographic variables of samples, section II with knowledge questions which included maths, science, thinking, general knowledge based on age group with discussion of educationist. Section III Standardized Moral foundation scale by Jesse Graham, Jonathan Haidt, and Brian, Nosek was used to assess the moral development.¹¹Which included helping, forgiveness, respect, charities, sincerity, honesty, rules and regulations, loyalty, ethical Sense, fairness, and responsibilities. Reliability was done by using split half method.¹²

3. Results

The collected data was analyzed by using statistical methods. Frequency and percentage were calculated demographic variables, knowledge questionnaire and moral development assessment scale. Comparison of data was done by calculating mean, standard deviation and p value.

Table No. 1 Frequency and percentage distribution of Demographic variables.
n= 50+50

Sr. No.	Demographical Variables		Nuclear family		Joint family		
			Frequency	%	Frequency	%	
1.	Age in Years	10-11	25	50	23	46	
		12-13	25	50	27	54	
2.	Gender	Male	29	58	32	64	
		Female	21	42	18	36	
3.	Religion	Hindu	25	50	23	46	
		Muslim	17	34	12	24	
		Christian	8	16	15	30	
4.	No of siblings No. of siblings	1	19	38	13	26	
		2	28	56	27	54	
		3	3	6	10	20	
5.	Parent occupation	Father	Working	42	84	43	86
			Notworking	8	16	7	14
		Mother	Working	28	56	15	30
			Housewife	22	44	35	70

Table No. 2: Level of cognitive development among school age children
n= 50+50

Cognitive development	Joint family		Nuclear family	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent (13 to 15)	24	48	22	44
Good (9 to 12)	21	42	19	38
Average (5 to 8)	5	10	9	18

Above table shows that, from nuclear family, most of them that is 22 (44%) were having excellent level of cognitive development. From joint families, majority of them 24 (48%) were having excellent level of cognitive development. None of the school age children have scored poor and average level of cognitive development belongs to joint and nuclear family.

Table No. 3: Level of moral development among school age children.
n= 50+50

Moral development	Joint family		Nuclear family	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent (61 to 80)	28	56	19	38
Good (41 to 60)	19	38	22	44
Average (21 to 40)	2	4	7	14
Poor(0 to 20)	1	2	2	4

Among 50 samples from the nuclear family, most of them, that is 22 (44%) were having good level of moral development. from joint families, most of them, that is 28 (56%) were having excellent level of moral development. Joint family children showed better moral development than nuclear family.

Table No. 4 Comparison of the level of cognitive development among school age
n= 50+50

Type of family	Mean	S.D.	p- value
Joint	12	2.5298	0.054
Nuclear	11.34	2.8886	

Above data shows that there is no significant difference in the cognitive development between children of joint and nuclear family.

Table No. 5: Comparison of the level of moral development among school age children
n= 50+50

Type of family	Mean	S.D.	p- value
Joint	58.52	10.7176	0.0268
Nuclear	53.2	12.8507	

Since the test is statistically significant at $p= 0.0268 < 0.05$ there is significant difference in the moral development between children of joint and nuclear family.

4. Discussion

Present Study have shown that in the vast scheme of things, children whether coming from nuclear or joint families doesn't show any difference in cognitive development. Majority of the samples were under excellent category. This is because children have much more opportunities to interact socially within their peers and the world at large currently. The matter of fact is that, today most children have access to a primary education across most of the globe, an opportunity for previous generation might not have been lacking. Hence the school and institutions adjacent to it play a huge role in the cognitive development of children. Add on to this that the internet allows them to access a treasure trove of knowledge per their needs and liking as opposed to previous generation who in most cases might have had to learn the family trade passed down and taught within the house. However, the studies also show that the family still holds a prominent role in the moral development of children. Here joint families tend to hold more influence on the child in dealing with simple interactions like arguments, compromises etc. This is due to a larger number of people being always present in your intimate surroundings and having to grow alongside them, hence the child learns how to grow with their siblings or cousins in a joint family. Compared to this the relatively fewer number of people in a nuclear family, tend to hold less influence on the moral development of the child as the lack of peer-aged sibling interaction and the absence of one or two parents for extended periods of time during each day means they hold less sway. Present study also showed there is better morals in joint family children than the nuclear family. Many factors will be affecting the Childs growth and development. School teachers also playing a major role in this.

5. Conclusion

The study concluded that there was no difference in cognitive development of children between nuclear and joint family but the children from joint family showed better moral development. This shows the influence of family members is very important in the development of the child specially in inculcating the values.

Conflict of interest: Nil

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