



Perceived Parenting, Personality and Career Aspirations among Youth

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Abstract : *The present study aimed to investigate the perceived parenting, personality, and career aspirations among youth. Six hypotheses were formulated for the purpose of finding out if significant correlation would exist between the variables and to investigate significant gender differences among youth on those variables. A sample of 157 youth (78 males and 79 females) with age range 17-24 years was chosen using incidental sampling. The data were collected using online mode from Bihar and Jharkhand. The statistical tests of Mean, Standard deviation, Coefficient of correlation, and t-ratio were performed for testing the*

hypotheses. The significant correlations between perceived parenting and personality (emotional stability trait), and perceived parenting and career aspiration among youth were found. No significant correlation was found between personality and career aspirations among youth. No significant gender difference was found on any of the variables. The suggestions and limitations based on results have been discussed in the study.

Keywords: *Perceived Parenting, Personality, Career Aspirations, Youth.*

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Introduction:

Parenting is a complex process that has a highly significant role in shaping the personality of the child and thus influences their self-esteem, behaviour, learning, social interactions etc (Baumrind, 1971; Sirohi & Chauhan, 1991; Veenes, 1973). The concept of parenting style had been largely influenced by Baumrind's (1971) conceptualization of authoritarian, permissive and authoritative parenting styles which involved various characteristics such as maturity, communication styles, nurturance, warmth, and involvement. The role of father or the style stands as a bridge by which the child comes into contact of the outside world (Meerto, 1968), encourages curiosity and a will to face the challenges of the world and appears as a symbol of assertive, independent, emotional, and psychological support in the realization of truth. The role of mother shows better control over the children and stands for friendship with less punishment and dominance (Kegan, 1965), symbol of emotional support, interpersonal sensitivity and help (Farren & Ramsey, 1977) and plays an important role in

making a person more productive and imaginative.

Personality refers to individual differences in characteristic patterns of thinking, feeling and behaving. According to APA (2022), personality traits are the enduring characteristics of a person's personality, that can be used to explain and predict the observed regularities and consistencies in people's behaviour and to explain the differences between individuals. Personality traits reflect basic dimensions on which people differ.

Career aspirations are termed as long-run goals which are required to be settled for career progression (Summera & Yasmin, 2020). Among various influencing factors, students reported that parents have the greatest influence on which career they choose (Kniveton, 2004).

The purpose of the present study is to investigate the relationship among perceived parenting, personality, and career aspirations of youth. The study also aimed to find out the gender differences across these variables.

The following hypotheses were formulated:

1. There will be significant relationship between perceived parenting and personality traits (decisiveness, responsibility, emotional stability, egostrength, and curiosity) among youth.
2. There will be significant relationship between perceived parenting and career aspirations among youth.
3. There will be significant relationship between personality traits (decisiveness, responsibility, emotional stability, egostrength, and curiosity) and career aspirations among youth.
4. There will be significant gender difference in perceived parenting among youth.
5. There will be significant gender difference in personality traits (decisiveness, responsibility, emotional stability, egostrength, and curiosity) among youth.
6. There will be significant gender difference in career aspirations among youth.

Method:

Sample: The sample consisted of 157 youth, out of which 78 were males and 79 were females from Bihar and Jharkhand. The age range was 17-24 years. Incidental sampling was used.

Research tools: The following tools were used for the measurement of the variables in the study.

- **Parenting Scale:** This Scale was developed by Bharadwaj (1998). The Scale consisted of 40 items that were to be answered on a five- point Likert scale. This Scale had high Reliability of 0.72 and it has also high coefficient of Validity of 0.75.
- **Differential Personality Inventory:** This was developed by Singh and Singh (2002). The scale consisted of total 150 items for 10 traits. For the purpose of this study, five traits were selected – decisiveness (15 items), responsibility (15 items), emotional stability (15 items), egostrength (15 items), and curiosity (15 items).
- **Career Aspiration Scale:** This Scale was developed by Gregor and O'Brien (2015). This Scale consisted of 24 items. The scoring of this Scale was based on five-point rating scale. Higher scores indicate higher aspirations in each domain.

Procedure of Data Collection: Informed consent was taken from the participants for collecting the data. The data was collected with the help of google form. The participants were explained about the study. Assurance regarding the confidentiality of their responses was given. The youth were asked to answer the questions honestly and earnestly. After completion, they were appreciated for their cooperation. Thus, the procedure of data collection was completed in one week.

Result and Discussion:

The result obtained for each hypothesis have been discussed and presented as below:

Hypothesis No. 1: “There will be significant relationship between perceived parenting and personality traits (decisiveness, responsibility, emotional stability, egostrength, and curiosity) among youth.”

For testing this hypothesis, the Pearson's 'r' was calculated using the Mean score values of Perceived Parenting and Personality Traits. The results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Coefficient of Correlation between Perceived Parenting and Personality Traits

Variables	N	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Perceived Parenting	157	1					
2. Decisiveness	157	.09	1				
3. Responsibility	157	.07	.37**	1			
4. Emotional stability	157	.25**	.21**	.14	1		
5. Egostrength	157	.15	.38**	.19*	.39**	1	
6. Curiosity	157	.11	.31**	.44**	-.09	.02	1

* Significant at 0.05 level (2-tailed), Table value is .159

Hypothesis No.1 was formulated keeping in mind that an individual's perception about his parenting would be related to his personality traits. In Table no. 1, it can be seen that among the five traits of personality, the perceived parenting is positively and significantly related to only emotional stability trait ($r = .25, p \leq .01$). The correlations with other four traits were not found to be significant even at .05 level. Hence, hypothesis no. 1 i.e., "There will be significant relationship between perceived parenting and personality traits (decisiveness, responsibility, emotional stability, egostrength, and curiosity) among youth" has been partially accepted.

This supported the findings of Farid and others (2022) in which the results indicated that the five factors in the Big Five personality type were strongly correlated with parenting styles factors.

Hypothesis No.2: "There will be significant relationship between perceived parenting and career aspirations among youth."

For testing this hypothesis, the Pearson's 'r' was calculated using the Mean score values of perceived parenting and career aspirations. The results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Coefficient of Correlation between Perceived parenting and Career Aspirations

Variables	N	r
Perceived Parenting	157	0.19*
Career Aspirations	157	

*Significant at 0.05 level (2-tailed), Table value is .159

Hypothesis No.2 was formulated keeping in mind that positive parenting perception would foster career aspirations among youth. In Table 2, the Coefficient of correlation between the scores of perceived parenting and career aspirations is 0.19 which is significant at 0.05 level. The Table value at 0.05 level is 0.159 which is less than the obtained 'r' value. Thus obtained 'r' value indicates significant correlation between perceived parenting and career aspirations. Hence, hypothesis no. 2 i.e., "there will be significant relationship between perceived parenting and career aspirations among youth" has been accepted.

The findings are in line with the study done by Bhatia and others (2020) where perceived parenting was found to be positively correlated with controllability and stability in career decision making. Similar results were found in the studies by Koul and others (2016) where the findings suggested that empathetic parenting positively influenced females' career aspirations. The study by Sawitri and others (2021) underlined the importance of career aspirations in translating the effects of positive parenting into specific career exploration activities undertaken by college students.

Hypothesis No. 3: "There will be significant relationship between personality traits (decisiveness, responsibility, emotional stability, egostrength, and curiosity) and career aspirations among youth."

For testing this hypothesis, the Pearson's 'r' was calculated using the Mean score values of Personality Traits and career aspirations. The results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Coefficient of Correlation between Personality Traits and Career Aspirations

Variables	N	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Career aspirations	157	1					
2. Decisiveness	157	.03	1				
3. Responsibility	157	-.03	.37**	1			
4. Emotional stability	157	.23**	.21**	.14	1		
5. Egostrength	157	.05	.38**	.19*	.39**	1	
6. Curiosity	157	-.11	.31**	.44**	-.09	.02	1

*Significant at 0.05 level (2-tailed); Table value is 0.159

Hypothesis no. 3 was formulated keeping in mind that differences in personalities bring about changes in various aspects of life including career aspirations. In Table no. 3, it is shown that there is significant positive correlation of career aspiration with only emotional stability trait of personality ($r = .23, p \leq .01$), but no significant relationship with other personality traits. Hence, hypothesis no. 03, “There will be significant relationship between personality traits (decisiveness, responsibility, emotional stability, egostrength, and curiosity) and career aspirations among youth” has been partially accepted.

Sarsikoglu and Bacanli (2021) found that the personality traits and career decision making status of young adults affect their career structuring. The researches do not cite the relationship between these variables. In the present study, career aspiration was found to be significantly related to emotional stability.

Hypothesis No.4: “There will be significant gender difference in perceived parenting among youth.”

For this hypothesis testing, t-ratio was calculated with the Mean scores, Standard Deviation, and Mean difference, which is shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Table showing t-ratio of Gender difference in Perceived parenting

Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean Difference	t-ratio	df	Level of Significance
Female	79	3.68	0.59	0.17	1.78	155	$p \geq .05$
Male	78	3.51	0.60				

Not significant at .05 level, Table value is 1.98

Based on the result, the total Means of females is 3.68 and their Standard deviation is 0.59, and the total Means of males is 3.51 and their Standard deviation is 0.60. The Standard deviations clearly show that there is less variability in the responses of the respondents. The Mean difference between both the genders is 0.17 indicates that females perceive their parenting as slightly more adequate as compared to males.

Further, the t-ratio was computed with the testing of significance of the Mean difference. The obtained t-ratio is 1.78, which is less than the

Table value i.e., 1.98 ($p \geq .05, df = 155$). Therefore, it is not significant even at the 0.05 level of significance, which indicates that there is no significant gender difference in perceived parenting among youth. Hence, the hypothesis that “there will be significant gender difference in perceived parenting among youth” has not been supported by the result.

In opposition to this, it was found by Bhatia and others (2020) that a significant difference was present between girls and boys in the ‘Faulty Role Expectations vs Realistic Role Expectations’ of fathers and in ‘Marital Conflict vs Adjustment.’

Hypothesis No. 5: “There will be significant gender difference in personality traits (decisiveness, responsibility, emotional stability, egostrength, and curiosity) among youth.”

For this hypothesis testing, t-ratio was calculated with the Mean scores, Std. Deviation, and Mean difference shown in Table 5.

Table 5. t-ratio of Gender difference in Personality Traits

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD	t
Decisiveness	Male	78	.60	.13	1.32
	Female	79	.56	.17	
Responsibility	Male	78	.55	.12	-.71
	Female	79	.56	.11	
Emotional stability	Male	78	.57	.14	-.60
	Female	79	.58	.17	
Egostrength	Male	78	.57	.13	1.64
	Female	79	.54	.12	
Curiosity	Male	78	.61	.19	-.17
	Female	79	.61	.18	

Not Significant at .05 level, Table value is 1.98

Table 5 shows that in this study, there was no significant gender difference in any of the personality traits. The SDs clearly indicate that there is less variability in the responses of the participants. Hence, Hypothesis 5 has been rejected.

Further, the t-ratio was computed. The obtained t-ratio is 1.99, which is slightly greater than the Table value at $df=155$ on 0.05 level i.e., 1.98. Therefore, it is significant at the 0.05 level of significance, which denotes that there is significant gender difference in personality among youth. Hence, the hypothesis has been accepted.

Weisberg and others (2011) in their study found women were higher on Extraversion, Agreeableness and Neuroticism scores than men revealing significant gender difference in personality.

Hypothesis No. 6: “There will be significant gender difference in career aspirations among youth.”

For this hypothesis testing, t-ratio was calculated with the Mean scores, Std. Deviation, and Mean difference, which is shown in Table 6.

Table 6. t-ratio of Gender difference in Career aspirations

Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean Difference	t-ratio	df	Level of Significance
Female	79	2.89	1.14	0.27	1.47	155	p ≥ .05
Male	78	2.62	1.16				

*Not significant at .05 level, Table value 1.98

Based on the result, it has been found that the total Means of females is 2.89 and their SD is 1.14, and the total Means of males is 2.62 and their SD is 1.16. The SD clearly shows that there is less variability in the responses of the participants. The Mean difference between both the genders is 0.27 indicating that females have slightly higher career aspirations relating to various dimensions such as leadership, educational and achievement, as compared to males.

Further, t-ratio was computed. The obtained t-ratio is 1.47, which is less than the Table value at df=155 at 0.05 level i.e., 1.98. So, it not significant even at 0.05 level of significance, which clearly indicates that there is no significant gender difference in career aspirations among youth. That means, the hypothesis has not been supported by the result.

In opposition to this, Nadeem and Khalid (2018) found that men have lower aspirations than women. It was also found that women chose more non-traditional and male dominated careers for themselves than men.

Conclusion:

The aim of the study was to find out the relationship between parenting and personality, the relationship between parenting and career

aspirations, the relationship of personality and career aspirations and the gender differences in perceived parenting, personality and career aspirations among youth.

Based on the obtained results, it can be suggested that parent’s knowledge, guidance and expertise are important for youth. Society should encourage parental presence which helps youth feel safe and loved. One must support youth in the way to overcome frustration and learn how to solve a problem related to career. Parents should be encouraged to continue to support their child, gradually giving them more responsibility as they get older. Awareness among parents regarding good parenting styles will be helpful.

Constructive criticism must be done occasionally to keep oneself on check. Knowing oneself is the biggest wisdom. Therefore, introspection can be a key factor. Exploration of new possibilities through debate and discussions in the family should be encouraged. Perspective opportunities in interest should be provided to the youth. One must do a ‘SWOT analysis’ pertaining to a particular career.

The sample size was not very large. In future, the studies can be conducted with larger sample size to validate the obtained results. The data collection method was an online survey in which the rapport building, observation and follow-ups were very difficult. In future, the study can be conducted in an offline setting for better result. The study can also be conducted at the national level. Various demographic details including socio-economic status, place of residence etc can be included in future studies for better result.

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