

# A STUDY ON DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES OF HOME AND SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT RELATED TO RESILIENCE AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN SRIVILLIPUTHUR TOWN

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## ABSTRACT

Today India's population of adolescents ranks amongst the largest in the world. Indian economy and the country's development is in the hands of adolescence. They are the backbone of the nation. The economic, social, political and sector oriented growth deny on the youngsters stress free life. They should be recognized and uplift by themselves and by the well wishers namely parents, teachers, friends, neighbours and others. The researcher has studied the demographic variables of home and environment related to resilience among adolescents in srivilliputtur. Development of resilience among children and adolescents has become one of the major concerns for today's society because of the constant decline in their psychological health resulting from disproportionate pressure and additional responsibilities shouldered by them apart from the developmental challenges. Moreover, schools are being explored for their potential to strengthen the resilience of children and adolescents.

**Keyword :** 1. Demographic variables : Gender, Family Type, Father's Occupation, Mother's Occupation, Father's Education, Socio-Economic group  
2. Resilience : Adoptability

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Today India's population of adolescents ranks amongst the largest in the world. One of the most important commitments a country can make for its future economic, social and political progress and stability is to address the health and development related need of its adolescents. The fundamental nature of resilience is being able to bounce back after facing from difficult times or challenges. Development of resilience among children and adolescents has become one of the major concerns for today's society because of the constant decline in their psychological health resulting from disproportionate pressure and additional responsibilities shouldered by them apart from the developmental challenges. This period of adolescence is the period often assumed to be that of storm and stress. Home environment is one of the most important influences on psychosocial development of young people, since it has both direct and indirect influence on adolescent's development of resiliency. It is report that the presence of a supportive familial environment consistently buffers the negative impact of risk factors. On the other hand, school environment is also having a considerable power in flourishing with responsible roles, clear and high academic standards, resources, and opportunities to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities on the development of child and adolescents. Moreover, schools are being explored for their potential to strengthen the resilience of children and adolescents.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Brooks (2005) [1] further elaborated resilience as the "ability to meet life's challenges with thoughtfulness, confidence, purpose, responsibility, empathy, and hope" (p. 298).

Early resilience studies were concentrated on qualities of the individual child or adolescent — the resilient child. The resilient child was described as invulnerable (Anthony, 1974) or invincible (Werner and Smith, 1982) [2]. Gradually, researchers came to view these terms as misleading for several reasons and have broadened or sharpened the concept of resilience.

Hunter (1999) [3] conceptualizes resilience in a continuum with two poles: less optimum resilience and optimum resilience. Less optimum resilience includes "survival tactics of violence, high risk behaviors, and social and emotional withdrawal" (Hunter, 1999, p. 246). Hunter's main point is that adolescents who display this kind of resilience often are maladapted as adults.

The home environment in all ages and for all cultures has been recognized as powerful socializing force in children's lives. Encompassing a number of ways in which families influence their offspring's development, the environment is of central concern in human development research. Criteria like family's socioeconomic status, demographics, parental attitudes and beliefs, parental expectations, and parental behavior towards and interactions with their children have mostly been assumed as essential measures of an adolescent's home environment. Factors like these and others have shown to have an effect on the healthy psychological development of children and adolescents. Family environment has also been recognized as one of the most important influences on psychosocial development of resilience of young people (Cairns & Dawes, 1996; Garmezy, 1983) [4].

Resilience research has proved that alleviating student's intrinsic motivation is the key to experiencing stress free adolescence. Fulfilling the younger people's basic psychological needs of belongingness and safety, attainment of competence, finding learning meaningful and autonomy can make them intrinsically motivated. Caring relationships with teachers and peers not only meet student's affiliation needs but also lend support when learning tasks are difficult or uninteresting. Repeatedly, these turnaround teachers/mentors are described as providing, in their own personal styles and ways, the three protective factors i.e. caring relationships, high expectations and meaningful participation in school (Benard, 1996; Deiro, 1996; Ladson-Billings, 1994; Moorman, 2001) [5].

## 3. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to explore the home and school protective factors along with other demographic factors leading to resilience in adolescents. The significance of this research lies in helping to clarify the roles that families and schools can play in building resilience among adolescents.

## 4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study proposed to attain on the following objectives:

- To examine the relationship between home, school environment and resilience among adolescents.
- To explore the relationship between demographic variables and resilience among adolescents

## 5. RESEARCH DESIGN

The current research is based on descriptive type of research. The sample of the study consisted of 130 students (Boys – 65 and Girls – 65) from 25 higher secondary schools were selected based on proportionate random sampling. The age group of the respondents was 14 years to 18years. The researchers have collected the primary data through interview schedule and the secondary data from journals, magazines and internet sources. The research data was analyzed by the researchers by applying statistical tools such as Frequencies and percentage counts, Mean, Standard deviation (SD), Cross tabulation, Chi-square etc.,

## 6. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

**Table -1:** Respondents Demographic Profile

Demographic Variables	Categories	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	65	50.00
	Female	65	50.00

Family Type	Joint	40	30.77
	Nuclear	90	69.23
Father's Occupation	Business	76	58.46
	Service	54	41.54
Mother's Occupation	Homemaker	114	87.69
	Business	1	0.77
	Service	15	11.54
Father's Education	<10 <sup>th</sup> grade	6	4.61
	Up to 10 <sup>th</sup> grade	12	9.23
	Upto 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	14	10.77
	Graduation	43	33.08
	> Graduation	55	42.31
Mother's Education	<10 <sup>th</sup> grade	14	10.77
	Up to 10 <sup>th</sup> grade	19	14.61
	Upto 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	28	21.54
	Graduation	43	33.08
	> Graduation	26	20.00
Socio-Economic group	High	42	32.31
	Middle	24	18.46
	Lower	64	49.23

Table 1 presents the demographic profile of the respondents. The table shows that the sample comprised of 50% males and 50% females, 30.77% of which came from joint families whereas 69.23% of the participants had nuclear families, 58.46% of the participants reported having business as their father's occupation whereas 41.54% had their fathers in service sector. As far as mother's occupation is concerned, a sizeable percentage of participants 87.69% reportedly had their mother's who were housewives which stands in total contrast to only 11.54% of participants who had their mothers doing service and only 0.77% participant had her mother in business. Only 4.61% participants reported having their father's education as less than grade 10 whereas the largest group which consisted of 55 participants and accounted for 42.3% of the sample reportedly had fathers with educational qualification beyond graduation. In case of mother's education, the largest group of the participants 33.08% reportedly had mothers with educational qualification up to graduation, followed by 21.54% of the participants who reported their mother's educational status as up to standard 12 which is followed closely by 20% of the participants who had mothers who were post graduates. The educational status of the mothers of participants as less than standard 10 and up to standard 10 was 10.77% and 14.61% respectively. The table further shows that 32.31% belonged to the high socio economic group, 18.46% belonged to the middle income group and the participants in the lower group accounted for the largest percentage of the sample (i.e.) 49.23%

**Table 2: Descriptive Statistics**

Variables	Mean	S.D
Resilience	65.63	8.101
Home Environment	14.12	3.757
School Environment	12.24	3.498

Table 2 shows the descriptive statistics i.e. mean and the S.D values of resilience, home environment and school environment along with their sub-dimensions. On the whole adolescents in the current study had moderate level of resilience as per the norms of resilience measure used in the study.

**Table 3: Cross-tabulated Frequencies of Levels of Resilience across Boys and Girls**

Resilience	Gender		Total
	Boys	Girls	
Low	13	16	29
Moderate	39	40	79
High	13	9	22

Total	65	65	130
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Table 3 shows that majority of the adolescent boys and girls have high level of resilience (Boys:  $f=39$ ; Girls:  $f=40$ ). In comparison to the boys ( $f=13$ ) it was the girls who had lower level of resilience ( $f=16$ ). In comparison to the girls ( $f=9$ ), mostly boys who had higher level of resilience ( $f=13$ ).

**Table 3.1:** Chi Square Analysis of Resilience across Boys and Girls

Variables	Calculated Value	Table Value	Degrees of Freedom	Level of Significance	Ho: Accepted / Rejected
Resilience across Boys and Girls	1.0503	5.991	2	0.05	Accepted

Table 3.1 shows that resilience did not differ significantly by gender. The above table shows that the gender and resilience were found to be uncorrelated in the study. On the whole, the result reveals that resilience was not related with gender.

**Table 4:** Cross-tabulated Frequencies of Levels of Resilience across Joint and Nuclear Families

Resilience	Family Type		
	Joint	Nuclear	Total
Low	23	7	30
Moderate	55	24	79
High	12	9	21
Total	90	40	130

Table 4 shows that most of the adolescents from joint families had high level of resilience ( $f=55$ ). The table also shows that most of the adolescents from nuclear families had high level of resilience ( $f=24$ ). However the number of adolescents coming from joint families is more than those coming from nuclear families. Majority of the adolescents ( $f=23$ ) had lower resilience while only 7 adolescents from nuclear families had lower level of resilience indicating that resilience is lower mostly in adolescents living in joint families. 12 adolescents who scored higher on resilience were from joint families.

**Table 4.1:** Chi Square Analysis of Resilience across Joint and Nuclear Families

Variables	Calculated Value	Table Value	Degrees of Freedom	Level of Significance	Ho: Accepted / Rejected
Resilience across Family type	2.2248	5.991	2	0.05	Accepted

Table 4.1 shows that resilience did not differ significantly with respect to joint and nuclear families of the adolescents. The above table shows that the family type of the adolescents and resilience were found to be uncorrected in the study. On the whole, the result reveals that resilience was not related with family type.

**Table 5:** Cross-tabulated Frequencies of Levels of Resilience across of Socio- Economic Status

Resilience	Socio- Economic Status			
	Low	Moderate	High	Total
Low	9	6	14	29
Moderate	26	15	38	79
High	7	3	12	22
Total	42	24	64	130

Table 5 shows that majority of the adolescents coming from higher socio-economic background ( $f=14$ ) had lower level of resilience. Also majority of the adolescents coming from higher socio-economic group had moderate level of resilience ( $f=38$ ). 26 adolescents from lower socio economic group had moderate level of resilience. Only 15 adolescents from middle socio-economic group scored moderate on resilience measure. Comparatively most of the adolescents reportedly having higher resilience were from higher socio-economic group ( $f=12$ ).

**Table 5.1:** Chi Square Analysis of Resilience across Socio-Economic groups of Adolescents

Variables	Calculated Value	Table Value	Degrees of Freedom	Level of Significance	Ho: Accepted / Rejected
Resilience across Socio-Economic groups	0.5444	9.488	4	0.05	Accepted

Table 5.1 shows that resilience did not significantly differ with respect to joint and nuclear families of the adolescents. The above table shows that the socio-economic status of the adolescents and resilience were found to be uncorrelated in the study. On the whole, the result reveals that resilience was not related with socio-economic status.

## 7. DISCUSSION

The present study contributes to the psychological literature by examining variables hypothesized to serve as protective factors that predict resilience among adolescence in Srivilliputhur town. - Specifically, the present study investigated the relationships among resilience, home environment, school environment and certain demographic variable. In order to examine whether resilience differs with respect to gender, chi-square test was conducted (see Table 3.1). The chi square value obtained was not significant, which implies that there is no significant difference in resilience between boys and girls. Chi-square was conducted to examine difference in resilience between adolescents coming from joint and nuclear families .Table 4.1 depicts that resilience did not significantly vary between the two family types. This finding throws light on the cultural transformation, which our traditional society is going through. Amongst the several transformations in recent times, the most striking one is the breakdown of Indian joint family system into several nuclear families. In order to examine whether resilience differs across the three socio economic groups (low, moderate, high) chi-square test was conducted (see Table 5.1).The result shown in table reveals that resilience did not differ, significantly with respect to the socio economic backgrounds of the adolescents, indicating that socio economic status does not necessarily affect resilience in this population.

On the whole, it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship between the three demographic variables i.e. Gender, Family type and Socio-economic status, investigated in the present study with resilience in adolescents.

## 8. CONCLUSION

The above discussed current research findings it can be concluded that the research questions regarding relationship between home and school environments and resilience, were successfully addressed by the present study. On the basis of the obtained results it can be assumed that instead of the demographic characteristics like gender, family type or socio-economic background, it is the quality of home and school environment of the adolescents that is responsible for their resilience.

## 9. REFERENCES

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