

Association between Age, Gender and Type of Orphan on the Level of Emotional Maturity among Children in Orphanages

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted with an objective to find out the association between age, gender and type of orphan on the level of emotional maturity among children living in orphanages at Urban Bangalore district. Self structured questionnaire was administered on a sample of 300 children out of which 120 were boys and 180 were girls, between the age group of 6-12 years. The statistical analysis was carried out by applying percentage and chi square. The findings revealed that, majority of boys and girls belonged to the age group of 12 years. With respect to type of orphan, majority of boys were social orphans whereas majority of girls belongs to non-orphan category. There is no significant association found between age group and gender, type of orphan and gender on emotional maturity level, type of orphan and age group on emotional maturity level among children residing in orphanages.

INTRODUCTION

Emotional Maturity is a state of balanced feelings and self-control. Person is said to be emotionally mature who has in his possession almost all kinds of emotions (positive as well as negative) and is able to express them justly, skillfully and timely in different situations of life. The concept of mature emotional behavior at any level is that which reflects the fruits of normal emotional development. It is a stage, which is very essential in human life.

The concept "Mature" emotional behavior of any level is that which reflects the fruits of normal emotional development. A person who is able to keep his emotions under control, who is able to break delay and to suffer without self-pity, might still be emotionally stunned and childish. Emotional maturity is always relative. A five-year-old child has emotional maturity if he/she is capable of the emotional behavior one judge to fit for a five year old. Emotional maturity however, develops throughout life. It is also a form of maturity from which one can regress most quickly.

Education plays a vital role in changing one's behavior. School plays a significant role in directing and shaping maturity and adjustment of children. Maturity of an individual has a marked impact on the behavior of children.

One outcome of healthy emotional development is increasing "emotional maturity". Emotional maturity is regarded as relative, not final or absolute. Two, four or six year olds are "emotional mature" if they show capacity for emotional behavior that is true to their level of development even though all the three groups are quite immature when compared with the elder children. The process of maturity emotionally is never complete, for a person in fairly good

health mentally continues to grow more "mature" in his attitude towards life and towards himself as long as he lives.

COMPONENTS OF EMOTIONAL MATURITY

- **Emotional Stability:** Emotional Stability refers to the characteristics of a person that does not allow him to react excessively or given to swings in mood or marked changes in any emotive situation. The emotional stable person is able to do what is required of him any given situation. Contrary to it, emotionally instability is a tendency to quick changing and unreliable responses and is a factor representing syndrome of irritability, stubbornness and temper tantrums.
- **Emotional Progression:** Emotional Progression is the characteristic of a person that refers to a feeling of adequate advancement and growing vitality of motions in relation to the environment to ensure a positive thinking imbued with righteousness and contentment. Emotional regression is also a broad group of factor representing such syndrome as a feeling of restlessness, hostility, aggressiveness and self centeredness.
- **Social Adjustment:** Refers to a process of interaction between the needs of a person and demands of the social environment in any given situation, so that they can maintain and adapt a desired relationship with environment.
- **Personality Integration:** This refers to an individual's motives and dynamic tendencies

resulting in harmonious coactions and dissociation of inner conflicts.

- **Independence:** Independence is the capacity of a person’s attitudinal tendency to be self reliant or of resistance to control by others, where he can take his decisions by his own judgment based on facts utilizing his intellectual and creative potentialities.

An emotionally mature person has full control over the expression of his feelings. However, he/she behaves according to the accepted social values and ideals. He remains indifferent towards emotional allurements. There is no instability in the expression of emotions. A person who is emotionally stable will have better adjustment with himself as well as with others. Emotionally mature persons will have more satisfaction in life, will be satisfied with what he/she is having, of course trying to achieve more, will have balanced attitude and will have more positive than negative attitude towards life.

An orphanage is a residential institution devoted to the care of orphans – children whose biological parents are deceased or otherwise unable or unwilling to care for them. Orphanages are one way of providing care, housing and education for children. No child is born as an Orphan, the situation, lack of facilities and also due to low socio-economic status parents leave the children at orphanages. An attempt was made to study the association between age, type of orphan and gender on the level of emotional maturity among children living in orphanages.

METHODOLOGY

Objectives:

To study the association between;

1. Age and Emotional maturity level among children.
2. Age group and Gender on Emotional maturity level.
3. Type of Orphan and Emotional maturity level.
4. Type of Orphan and Gender on Emotional maturity level.

Hypothesis:

There exists an association between;

1. Age and Emotional maturity level among children.

2. Age group and Gender on Emotional maturity level.
3. Type of Orphan and Emotional maturity level.
4. Type of Orphan and Gender on Emotional maturity level.

Selection of sample and sampling technique:

Random sampling technique was adopted. The samples were drawn from the 14 orphanages at Urban Bangalore District.

A total number of 300 children of which 120 were boys and 180 were girls constituted the sample.

The children between the age group of 6-12 years residing in orphanages were selected for the study.

Tool:

A questionnaire was developed by the investigator for the purpose of studying development of emotional maturity in the seven dimensions among children.

The questionnaire consisted of Part A and Part B. The Part -A consisted of basic data with regard to age, gender, ordinal position and type of orphan. Part -B contains sixty nine statements with regard to seven dimensions of emotional maturity viz, ability to deal, adapt to change, freedom from symptoms of tensions, satisfaction in giving, relate to others, capacity to sublimate and capacity to love both positive and negative items having 4 point rating scale.

Procedure:

Survey of Orphanages was carried out at Urban Bangalore district. After identifying the orphanages, the aim and purpose of the study was explained to the administrators of the orphanages and an official permission was taken to collect the data from the children. Rapport was built with the respondents, and then the questionnaire was administered to them with a request to answer. The dully filled questionnaire was collected.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data collected from the respondents was tabulated and statistically analyzed by applying percentage and chi square. The Table-1 shows the classification of respondents by age group.

TABLE – 1
Classification of respondents by Age group

Category	Respondents						χ ² Value
	Boys		Girls		Combined		
	N	%	N	%		%	
06 years –09years	34	28.30	36	20.00	70	23.30	3.57 NS
10years – 11years	41	34.20	60	33.30	101	33.70	
12 years	45	37.50	84	46.70	129	43.00	
Total	120	100.0	180	100.0	300	100.0	

NS: Non-significant, χ² (0.05, 2df) = 5.991, χ² (0.05, 3df) = 7.815

It is inferred in Table -1 that, majority of boys (37.50%) were from the age group of 12 years followed by 34.20 percent of them were from between the age group of 10-11

years and 28.30 percent of them were from between the age group of 6- 9 years.

Majority of girls (46.70%) were from the age group of 12 years followed by 33.30 percent of the respondents were from between 10-11 years of age group and 20.00 percent of them were from the age group of 6-9 years.

Combined result showed that majority of boy and girl respondents (43%) were from the age group of 6-9 years. However, the age group did not have any significant association with gender among children. The chi-square value found to be 3.57.

TABLE – 2
Classification of respondents by Type of orphan

Type of orphan	Respondents						χ ² Value
	Boys		Girls		Combined		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Maternal	12	10.00	12	6.70	24	8.00	57.45*
Paternal	37	30.80	25	13.90	62	20.70	
Social	43	35.80	22	12.20	65	21.70	
Non - orphan	28	23.40	121	67.20	149	49.60	
Total	120	100.0	180	100.0	300	100.0	

* Significant at 5% Level, χ² (0.05, 2df) = 5.991, χ² (0.05, 3df) = 7.815

Table-2 reveals the data regarding the type of orphan among respondents. In the study children living in orphanages have been classified into 4 categories. Maternal orphan is referred to a child who has lost their mother and paternal orphan is referred to a child who has lost their father. Social orphans are children who are living without parents because of abandonment or because their parents gave them up as a result of poverty, alcoholism or imprisonment, etc. Non - orphans are referred to a child who is having both the parents. Due to low socio-economic conditions in the family both the parents have left their children in the orphanages.

With regard to girls majority of them (67.20%) were non orphans (presence of both parents) living in orphanages. 13.90 percent of them were paternal orphans, 12.20 percent of them were social orphans and only 6.70 percent of them were maternal orphans.

It is inferred that, majority of boys (35.80%) were social orphans, 30.80 percent of them were paternal orphans, 23.40 percent of them were non orphans (presence of both parents) and only 10.00 percent of them were maternal orphans.

Combined results showed that 49.60 percent of boy and girl respondents were non orphans i.e. having both the parents, but staying in orphanages since they were from low socio-economic background, parents could not able to fulfill the basic needs of children. Almost equal percentages of them were social and paternal orphans (21.70% and 20.70%) and only 8 percent of them were maternal orphans. The chi-square value found to be 57.45 with significant at 5% level.

TABLE – 3
Association between Age and Emotional maturity level among respondents

Age group	Sample (n)	Respondents			
		Low		Moderate	
		N	%	N	%
06-09 years	70	60	85.70	10	14.30
10-11 years	101	76	75.30	25	24.70
12 years	129	101	78.30	28	21.70
χ ² Value		2.80 NS			

NS: Non-Significant, χ² (0.05, 2df) = 5.991

Table 3 shows that, respondents belonged to 6 - 9 years of age group, majority of them (85.70%) had low level of emotional maturity, 14.30 per cent of them had moderate level emotional maturity.

A higher percentage of respondents (78.30%) from the age group of 12 years had low level of emotional maturity and 21.70 per cent of them had moderate level of emotional maturity. There is no significant association with emotional maturity level and age among respondents. The results supports the findings of the study⁵, revealed that majority of the institutional children had unsatisfactory emotional adjustment.

In case of respondents between the age group of 10- 11 years, a higher percentage of them (75.30%) had low level of emotional maturity and 24.70 per cent of them had moderate level of emotional maturity.

TABLE – 4
Association between Age group and Gender on Emotional maturity level

Age group	Sample (n)	Emotional maturity level				
		Boys		Sample (n)	Girls	
		Low	Moderate		Low	Moderate
06-09 years	34	28 (82.40)	6 (17.60)	36	32 (88.90)	4 (11.10)
10-11 years	41	32 (78.10)	9 (21.90)	60	44 (73.30)	16 (26.70)
12 years	45	33 (73.30)	12 (26.70)	84	68 (80.90)	16 (19.10)
χ ² Value		0.91 NS		3.49 NS		

NS: Non-significant, χ² (0.05, 2df) = 5.991

When comparison was made between boy and girl respondents with regard to their emotional maturity level, it is seen from the above table - 4 that, 82.40 per cent of boys from 6-9yrs of age group had low level of maturity and 17.6 per cent them were moderately matured. With regard to 10-11 yrs of age group, majority of them (78.10%) had low level of maturity and 21.90 percent of them were moderately matured. 73.30 percent of respondents belonging to 12 years of age group had low level of emotional maturity and 26.70 percent of them had moderate level of emotional maturity. Hence, statistical analysis found to non significant with 0.91.

Girls belonging to 6-9yrs of age group, 88.90 per cent of them had low level of maturity and 11.10 per cent showed moderate level of maturity. 73.30 percent of the respondents belonging to 10-11 yrs of age group had low level of emotional maturity whereas 26.70 per cent of respondents showed low level of maturity. Majority of respondents (80.90%) from 12 yrs of age group had low level of emotional maturity and only 19.10 percent of them showed moderate level of emotional maturity. On statistical analysis it was seen that there was no significant association between gender and age group of children on the level of emotional maturity.

TABLE – 5
Association between type of Orphan and Emotional maturity level among respondents
N=300

Type of Orphan	Sample (n)	Respondents			
		Low		Moderate	
		N	%	N	%
Maternal	24	18	75.00	6	25.00
Paternal	62	54	87.10	8	12.90
Social	65	49	75.40	16	24.60
Non- orphan	149	116	77.90	33	22.10
χ^2 Value		3.31 NS			

NS: Non-significant,

χ^2 (0.05, 3df) = 7.815

Table -5 depicts the association between type of orphan and emotional maturity level among respondents. In case of maternal orphan category, a higher percentage of respondents (75.00%) had low level of emotional maturity and 25 percent of them were moderately matured. With regard to paternal orphan category majority of respondents (87.10%) showed low level and 12.90 percent of them had moderate level of emotional maturity. Majority of respondents (75.40%) in social orphan category had low level of emotional maturity and 24.60 percent of them were moderately matured.

Respondents under non-orphan category (children having both the parents) due to poverty residing in orphanages, a higher percentage of them (77.90%) had low level of emotional maturity and 22.10 percent of them had moderate level of emotional maturity. The statistical results showed that type of orphan was not associated with emotional maturity level among respondents with chi square value being 3.31.

TABLE – 6
Association between Type of Orphan and Gender on Emotional maturity level among respondents
N=300

Type of Orphan	Sample (n)	Emotional maturity level				
		Boys		Sample (n)	Girls	
		Low	Moderate		Low	Moderate
Maternal	12	7 (58.30)	5 (41.70)	12	11 (91.70)	1 (8.30)
Paternal	37	32 (86.50)	5 (13.50)	25	22 (88.00)	3 (12.00)
Social	43	33 (76.70)	10 (23.30)	22	16 (72.70)	6 (27.30)
Non- orphan	28	21 (75.00)	7 (25.00)	121	95 (78.50)	26 (21.50)
χ^2 Value		4.36 NS		2.92 NS		

NS: Non-significant,

χ^2 (0.05, 3df) = 7.815

It is noticed from above table -6 that, in maternal orphan category, a higher percentage of boy respondents (58.30%) had low level of emotional maturity and 41.70 percent of them were moderately matured. In case of paternal orphan category a higher percentage of boy respondents (86.50%) had low level of emotional maturity and 13.50 percent of them had moderate level. With regard to social orphan category majority of respondents (76.70%) showed low level of emotional maturity whereas 23.30 percent of them had moderate level.

category majority of them (88.00%) had low level of emotional maturity and 12 percent of them were moderately matured. With regard to social orphan category 72.70 percent of them had low level of emotional maturity and 27.30 percent of them had moderate level of emotional maturity.

Respondents under non orphan category, a higher percentage of them (75.00%) had low level of emotional maturity and 25 percent of them were moderately matured.

With reference to non orphan category, 78.50 percent of them had low level of maturity and 21.50 percent of them were moderately matured. On statistical analysis it is seen that type of orphan and gender did not differ on emotional maturity level.

With reference to girl respondents, a higher percentage of them (91.70%) belong to maternal orphan category had low level of emotional maturity and only 8.30 percent of them found to be moderately matured. In case of paternal orphan

CONCLUSION

The findings of the study revealed that, majority of boys and girls belonged to the age group of 12 years. With respect to type of orphan, majority of boys were social orphans whereas majority of girls belongs to non-orphan category. There is no significant association found between age group

and gender, type of orphan and gender on emotional maturity level, type of orphan and age group on emotional maturity level among children residing in orphanages there by rejecting the hypothesis set for the study. A well planned educational program on various dimensions of emotional maturity may help the children to overcome negative emotions and learns to balance the emotions in different situations of life.

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