

## **Moral Judgment of Adolescents In Relation To Their School Environment**

Ms. Poonam Choudhary<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Madhuri<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>(Lecturer in GSSS Karola, Gurgaon, India)

<sup>2</sup> (Assistant Professor, department of Education, M.D.U. Rohtak, India)

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**ABSTRACT :** *The present study aims to study Moral judgment of adolescent students in relation to their school environment. The result of the present study revealed that there is positive relationship between moral judgments on the basis of dimensions such as creative stimulation, cognitive encouragement, permissiveness, acceptance and control of the school environment of adolescent students.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Moral judgment, School environment.*

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Man is a social being. His rights and duties of action rise out of his relation to other person in society. So, Moral Judgment apart from society is inconceivable. Moral Judgment is always accompanied by the sense of duty or moral obligation. It is the judgment which deals with the moral values or quality of an action. It comprises of self-control, self-awareness, skill and insight, reaction to the authority of parents and cultural mores. Some researchers in the psychological field believe that moral judgments are considered to be the result of several cognitive processes (Keltner, Horberg & Oveis, 2006). It evaluates the rightness or wrongness of our actions. Adolescent period of life cycle is very important for biological, sociological and psychological growth of human being. Adolescence is the stage of preparation for playing the role of an ideal adult of the society. With the development of their intellectual abilities, moral thinking and reasoning, they can make sound moral judgment. They can see themselves better from others people's view points and are more sensitive to what others think of them. So, it is essential to develop moral judgment ability of adolescents so that they can see their rights in clear perspective with right of others and relationship of one's own future, well being and also take decision for the betterment of humanity rather than for its destruction.

Home and school provides conducive and inspiring environment to adolescent to judge their actions properly for themselves as well as for the society. Researches indicated that home and school environment affects the moral judgment of students. Duncan, Magnuson & Ludwig (2004) have pointed out the estimates of the effects of different influences (e.g., parenting, neighborhoods, schools) on adolescent development. Family and school also play a remarkable role to develop the moral judgment ability of the adolescents. Taj and Prabhu, K.H. (2013) studied in relation to their family relationship and found significant positive relationship between Moral Judgment and family relationship of secondary school students. Rest and Narveez (1991) reviewed research using the Defining Issue Test (DIT) of moral judgment on the effect of college upon moral judgment development and found that there is "college effect" that is, that gains in Moral Judgment are associated with going to college. Hing Keung Ma (2012) studied moral competence as a positive youth development construct: A conceptual and concluding some practical ways to promote moral competence. School based programs are effective in the promotion of moral competence. Gupta P. and Pooja (2010) studied Moral Judgment ability of Pre adolescent children's of public school and found that maturity is a necessary criterion for development of moral judgment ability and also found that mother and father education provide a permanent effect on child's moral judgment. The adolescent learn in a school is truism. Not only they learn occupationally valuable literacy and computational skills but they learn about ethics, citizenship, adequate judgment of people's actions. They learn to evaluate rightness or wrongness about people's actions. Present day, youth is involved in many immoral acts, studying the moral judgment of youth can help in preventing such type of problems. So, it becomes essential to study moral judgment of adolescents in relation to their school environment.

### **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The study was carried out with the following objectives:

- [1] To study the relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and creative stimulation dimension of School Environment.
- [2] To study the relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and cognitive encouragement dimension of school environment.

- [3] To study the relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and permissiveness dimension of school environment.
- [4] To study the relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and acceptance dimension of school environment.
- [5] To study the relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and rejection dimension of school environment.
- [6] To study the relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and control dimension of school environment.

### III. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

In order to realize the objectives of the study, the following null hypotheses were formulated:

- [1] There exists no significant relationship between Moral Judgment and creative stimulation dimension of School Environment of adolescent students.
- [2] There exists no significant relationship between Moral Judgment and cognitive encouragement dimension of School Environment of adolescent students.
- [3] There exists no significant relationship between Moral Judgment and permissiveness dimension of School environment of adolescent students.
- [4] There exists no significant relationship between Moral Judgment and acceptance dimension of School environment of adolescent students.
- [5] There exists no significant relationship between Moral Judgment and rejection dimension of School environment of adolescent students.
- [6] There exists no significant relationship between Moral Judgment and control dimension of School environment of adolescent students.

### IV. METHODOLOGY

Keeping in view the nature and purpose of the study, investigator adopted a descriptive survey method to carry out the study. This method deals with what exists at present and it describes and interprets the current prevailing.

**SAMPLE:** In the present study, stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample of 500 Adolescent students of government senior secondary school affiliated to H.B.S.E. from 5 districts of South Haryana.

#### TOOLS USED:

For this study the investigator used the following tools:

- Moral Judgment Test for Adolescents (Hindi) by Km.Ranjana Gupta
- School Environment Inventory (Hindi) by Dr. Karuna Shankar Mishra.

**Analysis and Interpretation of the Data :**The analysis and interpretation of the data was done by Computing Mean, Standard Deviation (S.D.) and correlation and the results are given in the following sections:

**Section I:**Relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and creative stimulation of School Environment.

**Objective 1:**To study the relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and creative stimulation dimension of School Environment.

Table 1

Variable	No. of Students	Mean	Correlation	Significance Level
Moral Judgment	500	90.4100	.545	.01
School Environment(Creative Stimulation)	500	39.2500		

From table1, it is clearly evident that coefficient of correlation between Moral Judgment and School Environment on the basis of creative stimulation of adolescent students is .545 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance with 498 df.So, the hypothesis "There exists no significant relationship between Moral Judgment and creative stimulation dimension of School Environment of adolescent students" is rejected.

**Section II:**Relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and cognitive encouragement of school environment.

**Objective 2:**To study the relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and cognitive encouragement dimension of School Environment.

**Table 2**

Variable	No. of Students	Mean	Correlation	Significance Level
Moral Judgment	500	90.4100	.178	.01
School Environment (Cognitive Encouragement)	500	28.3460		

From table 2, it is clearly evident that coefficient of correlation between Moral Judgment and School Environment on the basis of cognitive encouragement of adolescent students is .178 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance with 498 df. So, the hypothesis “There exists no significant relationship between Moral Judgment and cognitive encouragement dimension of School Environment of adolescent students” is rejected.

**Section III:**Relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and Permissiveness of School Environment.

**Objective 3:**To study the relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and permissiveness dimension of School Environment.

**Table 3**

Variable	No. of Students	Mean	Correlation	Significance Level
Moral Judgment	500	90.4100	.290	.01
School Environment (Permissiveness)	500	28.9460		

From table 3, it is clearly evident that coefficient of correlation between Moral Judgment and School Environment on the basis of permissiveness of adolescent students is .290 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance with 498 df. So, the hypothesis “There exists no significant relationship between Moral Judgment and permissiveness dimension of School Environment of adolescent students” is rejected.

**Section IV:**Relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and acceptance of school environment.

**Objective 4:**To study the relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and acceptance dimension of School Environment.

**Table 4**

Variable	No. of Students	Mean	Correlation	Significance Level
Moral Judgment	500	90.4100	.146	.01
School Environment (Acceptance)	500	29.8740		

From table 4, it is clearly evident that coefficient of correlation between Moral Judgment and School Environment on the basis of acceptance of adolescent students is .146 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance with 498 df. So, the hypothesis “There exists no significant relationship between Moral Judgment and acceptance dimension of School Environment of adolescent students” is rejected.

**Section V:**Relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and rejection of school environment.

**Objective 5:**To study the relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and rejection dimension of School Environment.

**Table 5**

Variable	No. of Students	Mean	Correlation	Significance Level
Moral Judgment	500	90.4100	-.408	.01
School Environment (Rejection)	500	23.0820		

From table 5, it is clearly evident that coefficient of correlation between Moral Judgment and School Environment on the basis of rejection of adolescent students is -.408 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance with 498 df. So, the hypothesis “There exists no significant relationship between Moral Judgment and rejection dimension of School Environment of adolescent students” is rejected.

**Section VI:**Relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and control of school environment.

**Objective 6:**To study the relationship between Moral Judgment of adolescent students and control dimension of School Environment.

**Table 6**

Variable	No. of Students	Mean	Correlation	Significance Level
Moral Judgment	500	90.4100	.345	.01
School Environment (Control)	500	28.3280		

From table 6, it is clearly evident that coefficient of correlation between Moral Judgment and School Environment on the basis of control of adolescent students is .345 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance with 498 df. So, the hypothesis “There exists no significant relationship between Moral Judgment and control dimension of School Environment of adolescent students” is rejected.

**V. CONCLUSION:**

Present study is an attempt in the direction of finding a significant relationship between moral judgments and school environment of adolescent students. It is observed that all dimensions except rejection of the school environment have significant positive relationship with moral judgment of adolescent students. So, we can say that moral judgment competence can be improved by providing conducive and favorable environment to adolescents. It is always very important for parents and teachers to give them such type of environment in which they can improve their actions and decisions to make their own future and also can add peace and success to the society.

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