

## Decision-making styles among young adults of nuclear and joint family

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**ABSTRACT:** The present comparative study is an exploration of how Family structure namely nuclear and joint family can have an impact on each domain of decision-making styles among young adults. It aimed to compare and find out the difference in young adults belonging to both families in each of the five domains of decision-making style i.e. rational decision-making style, intuitive decision-making style, dependent decision-making style, avoidant decision-making style and spontaneous decision-making style. The independent variable of the study was family structure i.e. nuclear family and joint family and the dependent variable was decision making styles i.e. rational decision-making style, intuitive decision-making style, dependent decision-making style, avoidant decision-making style and spontaneous decision-making style. The aim of the present paper was to compare decision-making styles among young adults from nuclear and joint family. The scale used was Decision making style questionnaire: developed by Scott and Bruce in 1995. It has a total of 24 items on a 5-point Likert scale measuring 5 domains namely rational, avoidant, dependent, intuitive and spontaneous decision-making styles. The total sample collected was from 120 young adults where 30 boys and 30 girls were from nuclear family and 30 boys and 30 girls were from joint family. The results indicated that style there was no significant difference between decision making styles among young adults in nuclear and joint family for domains rational decision making, dependent decision-making style, avoidant decision-making style and spontaneous decision-making style. For intuitive decision-making style, there was a significant difference observed as the significance value was lesser than 0.05.

**KEYWORDS:** Decision-making styles, nuclear family, joint family, young adults.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Family serves as the central unit of society and as the primary financial and social support for young adults. (Brownell & Resnick, 2005; Settersten, Furstenberg, & Rumbaut, 2005, as cited in Musick,). A family is where Two or more people who share goals and values, have long-term commitments to one another and reside usually in the same dwelling." Family is also where relationships between generations develop. as Family structures can be referred to as various cultures and societies that a family follows. These structures can include parents, children, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and more distant relationships defined by blood, marriage, or friendship. Bumpass & Meir, 2006). In this study two main types of Indian family patterns are studied namely, Nuclear family and joint family. A nuclear family is a family group of just parents and children living together or in close contact without other relatives whereas a joint family is a large undivided family where more than one generation live together in a common house. A joint family is a form of family where the grand-parents, father, mother, and children live unitedly under one roof. Different definitions have been given by different writers of decision-making style Driver (1979) defined decision-making as habitual pattern individual uses in decision making. Haren (1979) stated that it is individual characteristic made of perceiving and responding to decision making tasks. Driver, Brousseau and Hunsaker (1950) stated that decision making style is defined by the amount of information gathered and number of alternatives considered when making a decision. Mitrott (1985) proposed that cognitive style is a manner in which individuals take in data from outside world and make decision based on it. These are known as decision making styles. According to Scott and Bruce (1995) Decision making styles can be defined as the learned habitual response pattern exhibited by an individual when confronted with a decision situation. It is not a personality trait, but a habit-based propensity to react in a certain way in a specific decision context. Scott and Bruce came up with five decision making styles namely, Rational decision making: Thorough search for alternatives, logical evaluation of alternatives. Intuitive decision making: Reliance on feelings to make decisions. Dependent decision making: Search for advice and direction from others. Avoidant decision making: Avoidance of making a decision. Spontaneous decision making: Impromptu way of decision making. Young adult ages i.e. 18-21 years (Papalia and Sadock) is the

time where an individual develops independence and the capacity to make his/her decisions. This comparative study intends to know how family pattern can impact the decision-making styles among young adults. Young adulthood is a stage of transition where decision making is a complex phenomenon which is dependent upon life goals, family, and society. One of the important factors influencing decision making is the family environment and family structure that they are raised in hence, the construct of family being nuclear or joint has its influence on rational, intuitive, spontaneous, avoidant, and dependent decision-making styles. In India, people largely have a collectivist approach in decision making and family is a paramount factor in the decision-making process of young adults. The earlier family system in India was majorly a joint family system which is readily being changed to a nuclear family system these days. Young generation is mostly getting affected by this structural diversion. The present study intends to explore the difference between the decision-making style of young adults from nuclear and joint family.

## II. METHODOLOGY

The aim of the present study was to conduct a comparative study of decision-making styles among young adults from nuclear and joint family. The Hypothesis 1 stated that there will be no significant difference in rational decision-making style among young adults in nuclear and joint family, hypothesis 2 stated that there will be no significant difference in intuitive decision-making style among young adults in nuclear and joint family, hypothesis 3 stated that there will be no significant difference in dependent decision-making style among young adults in nuclear and joint family, hypothesis 4 stated there will be no significant difference in avoidant decision-making style among young adults in nuclear and joint family, hypothesis 5 stated that there will be no significant difference in spontaneous decision-making styles among young adults in nuclear and joint family. The independent variable of the study was family structure i.e. nuclear family and joint family. The dependent variable was decision making styles i.e. rational decision-making style, intuitive decision-making style, dependent decision-making style, avoidant decision-making style and spontaneous decision-making style. This study is a non-experimental, comparative research design as because the independent variable family structure (nuclear and joint) is compared with dependent variable (decision making styles) and there are two different groups studied namely, nuclear family and joint family. The sample of the study consisted of 120 young adults belonging to university colleges in Bangalore, 30 boys and 30 girls from nuclear family and 30 boys and 30 girls from joint family. The sampling method used was purposive sampling. The inclusion criteria to collect data was young adults belonging to ages 18-21 where nuclear family consist of father, mother and children, joint family consists of father, mother, siblings, grandparents, uncle, aunt etc. Families where parents have 3 children will be considered under nuclear family structure. Individuals belonging to age groups other than 18-21 years and individuals who are physically or mentally challenged and extended family were not considered in the study. Socio-demographic form was given and details were collected, informed consent was taken from the participants and decision-making style questionnaire by Scott and Bruce 1995 was used to collect data from 120 young adults. It had a total of 24 items on a 5-point Likert scale measuring 5 domains namely rational, avoidant, dependent, intuitive and spontaneous decision-making styles. The sample of young adult population from university colleges in Bangalore were chosen and informed consent is taken from each individual. Rapport is established, socio-demographic data is collected. The individual is provided instructions to fill the decision-making styles questionnaire by Scott and Bruce (1995) and data is collected. The data was analysed using independent sample t-test using IBM SPSS statistics version 20.

## III. DISCUSSION

**Table 1:** Shows the mean, SD, t, df and significance of the research sample based on decision-making among young adults.

	<b>Family pattern</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>Significance</b>
<b>Rational decision-making style</b>	Nuclear	60	18.90	2.582	1.363	118	0.175
	Joint	60	18.22	2.900			
<b>Intuitive decision-making style</b>	Nuclear	60	20.25	2.474	2.320	118	0.022
	Joint	60	19.17	2.637			
<b>Dependent decision-making style</b>	Nuclear	60	18.18	2.831	0.569	118	0.570
	Joint	60	17.92	2.272			
<b>Avoidant decision-making style</b>	Nuclear	60	17.78	2.552	0.913	118	0.363
	Joint	60	17.33	2.838			
<b>Spontaneous decision-making style</b>	Nuclear	60	16.27	3.394	-1.128	118	0.262
	Joint	60	16.95	3.239			

First objective of the study is to determine whether there is a significant difference in rational decision-making style of Young adults in nuclear and joint family. Hypothesis 1 of the study states that There will be no significant difference in rational decision-making style among Young adults in nuclear and joint family. Looking at table 1 it can be seen that the mean score for the domain rational decision-making style is 18.90 and 18.22 respectively, SD score being 2.582 and 2.900, t score being 1.363, df being 118 and significance 0.175 for nuclear and joint family respectively. It can be further inferred that there is no significant difference between rational decision-making style among young adults in nuclear and joint family. Therefore hypothesis 1 is accepted. The second objective of the study was to determine whether there is a significant difference in intuitive decision-making style of Young adults in nuclear and joint family. The second hypothesis states that There will be no significant difference in intuitive decision-making style among Young adults in nuclear and joint family. On referring to table 1 for intuitive decision-making style it can be inferred that mean score is 20.25 and 19.17, SD is 2.474 and 2.637, t is 2.320, df is 118 and the significance score is 0.022 for nuclear and joint family respectively. As the significance is less than 0.05, it can be further inferred that, there is significant difference between intuitive decision-making style among young adults in nuclear and joint family. Therefore hypothesis 2 i.e. null hypothesis is rejected for the domain intuitive decision-making style.

The third objective of the study was to determine whether there is a significant difference in dependent decision-making style of Young adults in nuclear and joint family. The 3rd hypothesis states that there will be no significant difference in dependent decision-making style among Young adults in nuclear and joint family. Referring to table 1 for dependent decision-making style it can be inferred that mean is 18.18 and 17.92, SD is 2.831 and 2.272, t is 0.569, df is 118 and significance level is 0.570 for nuclear and joint family respectively. As the significance level is same for nuclear and joint family it can be further inferred that there is no significant difference between dependent decision-making style among young adults in nuclear and joint family. Therefore hypothesis 3 is accepted. The fourth objective was to determine whether there is a significant difference in avoidant decision-making style of Young adults in nuclear and joint family. Hypothesis 4 states that There will be no significant difference in avoidant decision-making style among Young adults in nuclear and joint family. Referring to table 1 for avoidant decision-making style, it can be inferred that mean 17.78 and 17.33, SD is 2.552 and 2.838, t is 0.913, df is 118 and significance is 0.363 for nuclear and joint family respectively. As the significance level is same for nuclear and joint family it can be further inferred that there is no significant difference between avoidant decision-making style among young adults in nuclear and joint family. Therefore hypothesis 4 is accepted. The fifth objective was to determine whether there is a significant difference in spontaneous decision-making style of Young adults in nuclear and joint family. Hypothesis 5 states that there will be no significant difference in spontaneous decision-making styles among Young adults in nuclear and joint family. On referring to table 1 for spontaneous decision-making style, it can be inferred that mean score is 16.27 and 16.95, SD is 3.394 and 3.239, t is 1.128, df is 118 and significance is 0.262 for nuclear and joint family respectively. As the significance level is same for nuclear and joint family it can be further inferred that there is no significant difference between spontaneous decision-making style among young adults in nuclear and joint family. Therefore hypothesis 5 is accepted.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

The results indicated that style there was no significant difference between decision making styles among young adults in nuclear and joint family for domains rational decision making, dependent decision-making style, avoidant decision-making style and spontaneous decision-making style. For intuitive decision-making style, there was a significant difference observed as the significance value was lesser than 0.05. Therefore, null hypothesis is accepted for domains, domains rational decision making, dependent decision-making style, avoidant decision-making style and spontaneous decision-making style and null hypothesis is rejected for intuitive decision-making style.

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