THE CHILD-REARING ATTITUDES OF THE PARENTS OF (MALE AND FEMALE) SCHIZOPHRENICS

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SUMMARY

It was hypothesised that there exists significant difference between the parents of male and of female schizophrenics and those of the corresponding control group, in the child-rearing attitudes. The experimental group consisted of the 62 pairs of parents of 62 male and 38 pairs of parents of 38 female schizophrenics. A control group of 100 pairs of parents of mentally and physically healthy offsprings were taken. Subjects were matched for intelligence, age, sex, level of education, religion and per capita income and all of them were free from mental illness at any time during their life. The Bengali version of PARI for fathers were used. The results were consistent with the hypotheses. Certain child-rearing attitudes of the parents of schizophrenics were found which were significantly different from the corresponding control groups.

The child within the parental environment forms his psychic structure, learns his language, experiences tenderness and discovers anxiety. Directly, the parents influence personality development of children by moulding them to conform to the culturally approved pattern of social group with which they are indentified. Indirectly, the influence comes from identification from unconscious imitation of attitudes, behaviour pattern, etc. and from the mirror image of self one develops by viewing oneself through the eyes of parents (Hurlock, 1974). Even partial lack of parental function is responsible for a lack of positive reinforcement of normal ego functioning leading to the schizophrenic child's affective and cognitive confusion (Goldfarb, 1961). The etiological importance of the parents, behaviour to the schizophrenic child had been stressed by several investigators (Arieti, 1955; Alanen, 1958; Freeman and Grayson, 1950; Goldfarb, 1961; Lidz and Lidz, 1952, Schofield and Balion, 1959 and Sullivan, 1953).

Several attempts had been made to study the parental behaviour towards schizophrenic child. The fathers of schizophrenics were described as hostile, rejecting (Tietze, 1949), domineering (Arieti, 1955; Tietze, 1949), aggressive, punitive (Farahmand, 1961) and overprotective (Gerard and Siegel, 1950). The mothers were found as rejecting (Abraham and Varon, 1953; Despert, 1951; McAndrews and Gurtsmer, 1961; Rosen, 1953 and Richard and Tillman, 1950), dominating (Arieti, 1955; Freeman and Grayson, 1950; Jackson et al, 1958; McGhie, 1961; Schofield and Balion 1959 and Tietze 1949), hostile (Alanen, 1958; Arieti, 1955; Jackson et al, 1958), possessive ( Alanen, 1958; Hill, 1955), aggressive ( Despert, 1951), Overprotective (Gerard and Siegel, 1950; Horswitz and Lovel, 1960; Schofield and Balion, 1959), seclusive (Horswitz and Lovel, 1960), and martyr ( Freeman and Grayson, 1950). Martial conflict is present in schizophrenics' parents (Gerard and Siegel, 1950; Moschner and Bojanovesby 1968). It is revealed from the previous works that very few investigators in this field considered the child rearing attitudes of the father and also the sex of the schizophrenic patient. So the
present investigators have set up a paradigm to study the child-rearing attitude of the parents of schizophrenics where sex of the parents as well as of schizophrenics have been considered.

For the present investigation, the following hypotheses were formulated:

1. There exist significant differences between the fathers of schizophrenics and those of normals in the child-rearing attitudes;
2. There exist significant differences between the fathers of male schizophrenics and those of male normals in the child-rearing attitudes;
3. There exist significant differences between the fathers of female schizophrenics and those of female normals in the child-rearing attitudes;
4. There exist significant differences between the mothers of schizophrenics and those of normals in the child-rearing attitudes;
5. There exist significant differences between the mothers of male schizophrenics and those of male normals in the child-rearing attitudes;
6. There exist significant differences between the mothers of female schizophrenics and those of female normals in the child-rearing attitudes.

METHODOLOGY

For the present investigation, the experimental group consisted of 62 pairs of parents of 62 male and 38 pairs of parents of 38 female schizophrenics. A control group of 100 pairs of parents of mentally and physically healthy offsprings were taken. The patients as well as the normal control subjects whose parents were included in the control group and all the parents were examined by two psychiatrists. Only those cases where agreement in diagnosis could be reached were included. The degree of agreement between the psychiatrists was high (92%). The following were the criteria of selection of subjects (both experimental and control group)—

(i) speaking Bengali, (ii) both spouses alive, (iii) the level of education between class VI and class X of high school with average intelligence tested by Progressive Matrices Test, (iv) free from mental illness at any time during their life, (v) age range between 35 to 54 years, (vi) religion being Hindu and (vii) per capita income of the family at Rs. 50 to 60 per month.

TOOLS

The Bengali Version of parental Attitude Research Instrument (PARI) for mothers (Schaefer and Bell, 1958) and of PARI for father (Schaefer and Bell, 1962) were selected for the present investigation. The PARI applicable for mother consists of 23 scales. The following scales of PARI for father were selected for the above purposes with the consultation of three experienced psychologists: encouraging verbalization, fostering dependency, breaking the will, marital conflict, strictness, irritability, excluding outside influences, defiliation, suppression of aggression, equallitarianism, inconsiderateness of the spouse, suppression of sex, ascendancy of father and comradeship and sharing. The numbering and description of the scales of PARI and given in the Appendix. Ravens' Progressive Matrices (1960) test was used for the study of intelligence.

PROCEDURE

The parents were interviewed with prior appointments. They were explained that this participation would be helpful for the therapeutic programme. First, the history of the present illness was recorded. Thus the standard Progressive Matrices...
was administered and responses scored immediately. Thereafter Bengali adaptation of PARI was applied only to those parents whose scores lay between the 25th percentile and 75th percentile.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It appeared from the analysis of data (Vide Table-I) that the mean scores of the fathers of schizophrenics were significantly higher in scales: 2, 10, 11, 12, 18 \((p<.01)\), 7, 8 and 9 \((p<.03)\) and lower in scales: 14 \((p<0.01)\), 1 \((p<0.05)\) than those of the fathers of normals. So it could be said that the fathers of schizophrenics tended to be more in favour of the attitudes of fostering dependency (Scale-2), strictness (Scale-8), marital conflict (Scale-7), irritability (Scale-9), excluding outside influences (Scale-10), deficitation (Scale-11), suppression of aggression (Scale-12) and suppression of sex (scale 18) and were more against the encouraging verbalization (Scale-1) and equalitarianism (Scale-14) than those of the fathers of normals. Gerard and Seigel (1950) had also observed over protection in the fathers of schizophrenics which was expressed here in the scale "fostering dependency".

The mean scores of the fathers of male schizophrenics were found to be highly significant at \(p<0.01\) level of significance in scales: 10, 12 and significant \(a<0.05\) level of significance in scales 14 and 18. Thus it appeared that the fathers of the male schizophrenics were more in favour of

| Table I - Attitudes as obtained by the application of PARI to the Fathers of Schizophrenics |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Sl. No. | Fathers of Schizophrenics | Fathers of Normals | Fathers of Male Schizophrenics | Fathers of Male Normals | Fathers of Female Schizophrenics | Fathers of Female Normals |
|---------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
|         | Mean | S.D. | Mean | S.D. | Mean | S.D. | Mean | S.D. | Mean | S.D. | Mean | S.D. |
| 1.      | 15.10 | 3.32 | 15.88 | 3.13 | 15.85 | 2.72 | 16.04 | 2.11 | 13.86 | 3.18 | 15.60 | 3.47 |
| 2.      | 17.71 | 2.25 | 16.44 | 2.51 | 17.20 | 2.54 | 16.53 | 2.51 | 18.52 | 1.37 | 16.28 | 2.60 |
| 3.      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |
| 4.      | 15.97 | 2.95 | 16.24 | 2.46 | 15.66 | 3.10 | 16.14 | 2.41 | 16.47 | 2.64 | 16.39 | 2.61 |
| 5.      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |
| 6.      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |
| 7.      | 17.11 | 2.38 | 16.42 | 3.08 | 16.91 | 2.50 | 16.24 | 3.07 | 17.42 | 2.26 | 16.71 | 3.10 |
| 8.      | 12.66 | 4.28 | 11.66 | 4.10 | 12.82 | 4.16 | 12.24 | 4.16 | 12.39 | 3.98 | 10.71 | 4.09 |
| 9.      | 13.54 | 1.95 | 12.80 | 2.69 | 13.24 | 3.06 | 12.61 | 2.50 | 14.02 | 2.94 | 13.10 | 2.87 |
| 10.     | 17.50 | 2.77 | 15.91 | 2.87 | 17.45 | 2.51 | 15.90 | 2.81 | 17.81 | 1.86 | 16.00 | 3.00 |
| 11.     | 17.38 | 2.79 | 16.23 | 3.04 | 17.20 | 3.07 | 16.48 | 2.68 | 17.65 | 2.41 | 15.86 | 3.34 |
| 12.     | 18.11 | 1.76 | 17.05 | 2.42 | 17.83 | 1.97 | 16.73 | 2.60 | 18.53 | 1.46 | 17.55 | 2.14 |
| 13.     |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |
| 14.     | 16.66 | 1.95 | 17.76 | 2.39 | 16.91 | 2.40 | 17.69 | 2.05 | 16.23 | 1.90 | 17.89 | 2.46 |
| 15.     |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |
| 16.     |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |
| 17.     | 15.27 | 2.16 | 14.86 | 2.67 | 15.17 | 3.30 | 14.83 | 2.53 | 14.89 | 3.10 | 14.89 | 2.95 |
| 18.     | 17.07 | 2.35 | 15.52 | 2.37 | 16.67 | 2.54 | 15.75 | 2.95 | 17.71 | 1.95 | 15.13 | 3.76 |
| 19.     | 18.17 | 2.00 | 17.85 | 1.78 | 18.41 | 1.77 | 17.98 | 1.64 | 17.76 | 2.40 | 17.65 | 2.03 |
| 20.     |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |
| 21.     | 17.32 | 2.80 | 16.89 | 2.55 | 17.30 | 2.66 | 17.14 | 2.44 | 17.34 | 2.46 | 16.47 | 3.28 |
| 22.     |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |
| 23.     |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |      |
“excluding outside influences” (Scale-10), “suppression of aggression” (Scale-12) and suppression of sex (Scale-18) and more against the equitarianism (Scale-14). The differences between the mean scores of the fathers of female schizophrenics and of female normals were highly significant (<0.01) in scales: 2, 10, 11 and 14 and were significant (<0.05) in scales: 1, 8 and 12. So it was surmised that the attitudes of the fathers of female schizophrenics were more in favour of fostering dependency (Scale-2), strictness (Scale-8), excluding outside influences (Scale-10), deification (Scale-11), suppression of aggression (Scale-12), suppression of sex (Scale-18) and more against the encouraging verbalization (Scale-1) and equitarianism (Scale-14) than the corresponding control group.

It was evident from the analysis of data (vide Table-II) that the mean scores of the mothers of schizophrenics were significantly higher in the scales of PARI: 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 and 22 (<0.01) and 6, 8, 13, 15, 16 and 20 (<0.05) and lower in the Scale-14 than those of the mothers of normals. So it was observed that the attitudes of the mothers of schizophrenics were more in favour of fostering dependency (Scale-2), seclusion of mother (Scale-3), breaking the will (Scale-4), martyrdom (Scale-5), fear of harming the baby

| Table-II—Attitudes as obtained by the application of PARI to the Mothers of Schizophrenics |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| No. 
| Scale | Mothers of Schizophrenics | Mean S.D. | Mothers of Normal | Mean S.D. | Mothers of Male | Mean S.D. | Mothers of Female | Mean S.D. |
| 1. Encouraging Verbalization | 14.42 4.07 15.08 3.20 | 13.98 4.58 14.75 3.46 | 15.13 2.98 15.60 3.04 |
| 2. Fostering Dependency | 17.68 2.09 15.97 3.15 | 17.54 2.13 15.90 3.15 | 17.89 2.14 16.08 3.18 |
| 3. Seclusion of Mother | 15.34 3.55 12.30 3.65 | 15.40 3.70 11.59 3.96 | 15.76 3.33 13.45 3.38 |
| 4. Breaking the Will | 16.42 2.71 15.38 2.88 | 16.09 3.03 15.80 2.57 | 16.95 2.05 15.21 3.29 |
| 5. Martyrdom | 17.80 1.99 17.05 2.52 | 17.64 2.17 17.16 2.37 | 18.05 1.72 16.87 2.73 |
| 6. Fear of Harming the Baby | 16.42 2.88 15.11 2.07 | 17.01 2.80 16.11 2.92 | 15.44 2.78 14.34 2.75 |
| 7. Martial Conflict | 16.18 3.33 16.03 2.76 | 16.14 3.34 13.66 2.77 | 17.02 3.10 16.63 2.68 |
| 8. Strictness | 11.14 4.68 9.90 3.89 | 10.56 4.38 10.43 4.13 | 12.07 4.74 9.02 3.11 |
| 9. Irritability | 14.08 3.70 12.74 2.78 | 14.30 3.51 12.69 2.75 | 13.71 4.15 12.81 2.87 |
| 10. Excluding Outside Influences | 17.41 2.34 16.30 2.32 | 17.34 2.51 16.24 2.66 | 17.18 2.15 16.39 2.33 |
| 11. Deification | 17.37 2.55 13.88 2.96 | 17.33 2.77 15.56 2.70 | 17.42 2.26 16.39 3.33 |
| 12. Suppression of Aggression | 17.44 2.30 16.11 3.01 | 17.53 2.39 16.43 2.60 | 17.57 2.21 15.57 3.59 |
| 13. Rejection of Home Making | 15.68 3.29 14.59 3.32 | 15.37 3.26 14.63 2.82 | 16.16 3.28 14.18 3.99 |
| 14. Equitarianism | 16.87 2.09 17.14 2.53 | 17.40 2.33 16.96 2.26 | 16.71 1.87 17.51 2.14 |
| 15. Approval of Activity | 18.08 2.61 17.38 2.27 | 17.94 1.57 17.50 2.03 | 18.82 1.68 17.18 2.64 |
| 16. Avoidance of Communication | 15.97 2.73 13.23 3.02 | 15.90 2.48 15.62 2.53 | 16.07 3.16 14.57 3.17 |
| 17. Inconsiderateness of husband | 16.93 2.67 15.51 3.24 | 17.61 2.40 15.80 2.57 | 16.79 3.05 15.13 3.64 |
| 18. Suppression of Sex | 15.95 3.87 17.47 3.27 | 17.64 3.91 15.36 3.20 | 17.18 1.81 16.60 3.35 |
| 19. Ascendency of Mother-Father | 18.34 1.89 17.05 2.72 | 18.08 1.93 17.30 2.44 | 18.76 1.37 16.63 3.09 |
| 20. Intrusiveness | 17.88 1.90 17.23 2.40 | 17.93 1.87 17.21 2.18 | 18.05 1.29 17.36 2.74 |
| 21. Conundrums and Sharing | 17.62 3.99 17.02 2.22 | 16.62 3.05 17.56 2.12 | 17.65 8.81 17.71 2.42 |
| 22. Acceleration of Development | 17.05 2.45 16.89 2.87 | 17.40 2.42 16.24 2.64 | 16.47 2.45 15.28 3.13 |
| 23. Dependency of Mother | 16.50 3.12 15.74 3.41 | 16.56 3.21 15.39 3.16 | 16.39 3.29 15.34 4.02 |
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(Scale-6), strictness (Scale-8), irritability (Scale-9), excluding outside influence (Scale-10), deification (Scale-11), suppression of aggression (Scale-12), rejection of home making role (Scale-13), approval of activity (Scale-15), avoidance of communication (Scale-16), inconsiderateness of husband (Scale-17), suppression of sex (Scale-18), ascendency of mother (Scale-19), intrusiveness (Scale-20) and acceleration of development (Scale-22) and were more against the equalitarianism (Scale-14) than those of the control group. The scale fostering dependency measures the overprotective attitude of the parents. Thus the finding concerning this attitude resembled the reports of the studies of Scofield and Balion (1959), Freeman and Grayson (1950), Remove and Alanen (1958) who also observed the overprotection in the mothers of schizophrenics. Freeman and Grayson (1950) had shown the domineering attitude of the mothers of schizophrenics. This finding was also confirmed in the present investigation by measuring the scale "ascendency of mother."

The mean scores of the mothers of male schizophrenics were significantly higher in the scales: 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 19, (<.01) and 5, 6, 13, 15, 16, 17 and 22 (<.05) and less in Scale-14. It was found that the attitudes of the mothers of female schizophrenics were more towards the agreement of fostering dependency (Scale-2), seclusion of mother (Scale-3), breaking the will (Scale-4), martyrdom (Scale-5), fear of harming the baby (Scale-6), strictness (Scale-8), suppression of aggression (Scale-12), rejection of home making role (Scale-13), approval of activity (Scale-15), avoidance of communication (Scale-16), inconsiderateness of husband (Scale-17), ascendency of mother (Scale-19), acceleration of development (Scale-22) and towards the disagreement of equalitarianism Scale-14 than those of the mothers of female normals.

Horswitz and Lovel (1960) also found that the mothers of female schizophrenics supported the scales "fostering dependency" and "Seclusion of mother". Alanen (1958), Freeman and Grayson (1950), Scofield and Balion (1959) had noticed overprotection in the mothers of schizophrenics also. In the present work, it was found that the mothers of male and of female schizophrenics and also those of combined group of schizophrenics and the fathers of female schizophrenics and those of schizophrenics in general approved the attitude of fostering dependency (over-protective attitude) more than the corresponding control group.

CONCLUSION

In the present investigation, certain child rearing attitudes of the parents of schizophrenics were found which were significantly different from the corresponding control groups.

The fathers of schizophrenics approved the following child-rearing attitudes: foster-
ing dependency, marital conflict strictness, irritability, excluding outside influences, deification, suppression of aggression and suppression of sex. They disapproved encouraging verbalization and equalitarianism.

The mothers of schizophrenics possessed the positive attitude towards fostering dependency, seclusion of mother, breaking the will, martyrdom, fear of harming the baby, strictness, irritability, excluding outside influences, deification, suppression of aggression, rejection of home making role, approval of activity, avoidance of communication, inconsiderateness of husband, suppression of sex, ascendency of mother, intrusiveness and acceleration of development.

The fathers of male schizophrenics preferred the attitude of excluding outside influences, suppression of aggression and suppression of sex. They were against the attitude of equalitarianism.

The mothers of male schizophrenics approved the attitude of fostering dependency, seclusion of mother, breaking the will, martyrdom, fear of harming the baby, strictness, irritability, excluding outside influences, deification, suppression of aggression, inconsiderateness of other spouse suppression of sex, ascendency of mother, intrusiveness and acceleration of development. They disapproved the attitude of comradeship and sharing. The fathers of female schizophrenics agreed with the attitude of fostering dependency, strictness, excluding outside influences, deification, suppression of aggression and suppression of sex and disagreed with encouraging verbalization and equalitarianism.

The mothers of female schizophrenics were in favour of fostering dependency, seclusion of mother, breaking the will, martyrdom, fear of harming the baby, strictness, suppression of aggression, rejection of home making role, approval of activity, avoidance of communication, inconsiderateness of husband, ascendency of parent and acceleration of development and were against the attitude of equalitarianism.

So from the present study it may be concluded that certain child-rearing attitudes of the parents of schizophrenics are significantly different from the parents of the normals.

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APPENDIX

The scales of PARI have been described below:

Scale-1: Encouraging verbalization: It determines whether the parent would permit to encourage the child to talk about his anxieties, conflicts, hostilities and disagreements with parental policies.

Scale-2: Fostering dependency: It was designed to measure another aspect of over-protection or over-possessiveness.

*Scale-3: Seclusion of mother: It was designed to measure the social adjustment of the mother, since it would presumably influence the socialization of the child.

Scale-4: Breaking the will: It measures to what extent parents believe that breaking or suppressing will by force is a suitable process for the development of the child.

*Scale-5: Martyrdom—It measures to what extent parents expect the realization of child about the parent's sacrifice.

*Scale-6: Fear of harming the baby: It was developed out of interest in clinical reports of the eruption of the unconscious hostile feelings toward their infants in disturbed parents.

Scale-7: Marital conflict: It was intended to reveal the existence of tensions indirectly through obtaining the respondent's judgments about how much quarreling might the expected in marriages in general.

Scale-8: Strictness: It attempts to determine the degree to which the parents feel punishment is an effective method of influencing and controlling the child.

Scale-9: Irritability: It consists of items which indicate that children "get on a parent's nerves" and that any parent would "blow his/her top" frequently in the difficult job of managing a home. This scale may be related to several sources of tension but it seems feasible that it would also reflect tensions in the marital relationship.

Scale-10: Excluding outside influences: It is designed to measure family ethnocentrism, may be related to parental control and authoritarian attitudes.

Scale-11: Deification: It measures to what extent the parents expect the respect and worship of child.

Scale-12: Suppression of aggression: It measures to what extent the parent wants to suppress the child.
Scale-13: Rejection of home making role: It states the unhappiness of a woman at being shut up in a home and her dissatisfaction with the duties of caring for the home and children.

Scale-14: Equalitarianism: It measures to what extent parents believe that adjustment of parent with the child and treating the child as an equal are necessary for the development of the child.

*Scale-15: Approval of activity: It measures the extent to which the parent feels children should be kept busy and rushing at all times.

*Scale-16: Avoidance of communication: It measures the extent to which the parent would avoid the child to talk about his anxiety, conflicts, hostilities and troubles.

Scale-17: Inconsiderateness of husband/wife: It measures the wife's/husband's conflicts around the inconsiderateness of husband/wife towards each other.

Scale-18: Suppression of sex: It measures to what extent the parents suppress the child of knowing about sex.

Scale-19: Ascendency of mother/father: It measures to what extent the woman/man plans to dominate the family. It was developed to investigate the possible sources of marital conflict.

*Scale-20: Intrusiveness: It measures to what extent parents are intrusive about the thoughts of child.

*Scale-21: Comradeship and sharing: It measures to what extent parents support that comradeship and sharing are the means to make the child obedient and open minded to parent.

*Scale-22: Acceleration of development: It measures so what extent parents expect that a child should reach developmental goals at an accelerated pace.

*Scale-23: Dependency of mother: It estimates to what extent the mothers look to others for security and support.

*Scales not suitable for fathers.