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Discipline related Conflict between Parents and Adolescents across Socio- Economic Group

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Abstract: ***The present investigation examines discipline related parents- adolescents conflict across socio- economic group (upper, middle, lower socio economic group). Data obtain from Allahabad city Uttar Pradesh. A total sample of 300 adolescents comprising of 100 adolescents each (50 boys and 50 girls) from lower, middle and upper socio economic groups. Sample was selected using stratified random sampling technique for the study. Adolescents' in the age group of 13- 19 years. Socio-economic status scale by Kuppuswamy (1962) revised by Kumar and Tiwari (2014) was used to ascertain the socio economic status of the selected respondents. This paper to assess discipline related parents- adolescents conflict across socio- economic group (upper, middle, lower socio economic group). Questionnaire, developed by the researcher for the purpose of the present investigation, was administered to the participants in study. The emergent findings showed that significant gender (adolescent boys and girls) variation in discipline related parents- adolescents conflict among respondents who belong to upper and lower socio-economic group. Whereas, in the middle socio economic group were found non-significant difference between gender (adolescent boys and girls). The mean value indicate that, adolescent boys were higher level discipline related parents-adolescents conflict in case of all three socio economic groups compression than adolescent girls. .***

Keywords: Adolescents, discipline, parents- adolescents conflict, parenting style, authoritative, authoritarian, permissive and uninvolved parenting style.

I. INTRODUCTION

Teen or *teenager* is a term widely used to describe an age group between childhood and adulthood. Generally, the accepted ages for teen or teenager are 13 to 19 years of age. Adolescence is a time of transition from becoming a dependent child to an independent young adult. During this stage of transitional physical and mental human development, teens tend to seek independence and experiment with adult behaviors. This is a reason of parent adolescent conflict. Parent-adolescent conflict during adolescence is characterized as a dyadic, interpersonal events involving overt behavioral opposition including quarrels, disagreements, and arguments (Shantz, 1987). Evidence suggests that family environments constitute the basic ecology where children's behavior is manifested, learned, encouraged, and suppressed. Parents' roles in the family environment have primarily been to prepare children for adulthood through rules and discipline. During adolescence, however, the influence of peers also serves as an important socialization agent. Despite this new sphere of influence, research has clearly demonstrated that parenting accounts for more variance in externalizing behaviors in adolescence than any other one factor. The period of adolescence can be difficult for both parents and offspring; therefore, understanding the importance of maintaining high quality parenting is particularly essential. The influence of parenting during adolescence continues to affect behaviors into adulthood. ; therefore, this paper were research that focuses on discipline related parents- adolescents conflict across socio- economic group (upper, middle, lower socio economic group). Although the relationship between parent and offspring is characterized as bidirectional and interactional, this paper will focus on the discipline related parents- adolescents conflict across socio- economic group (upper, middle, lower socio economic group). Parenting, combined with parental practices and obedience techniques, encourages pro-social behaviors. The role of the family on an early adolescents pro-social and moral growth is unclear and relics a practically unexplored region. Researchers are still not clear whether children who are high in pro-social behavior are easier to regulate when conflict occurs which leads to parents using more inductive, less power-aggressive discipline approaches creating conflict between the two groups. New pattern of socialization is also a cause of conflict between parents and their adolescents. Whatever, style parents use to rear their adolescents, the goal of parenting is to raise a child who is healthy and successful in life, who can contribute to self and to society, who accepts and works to further the social order. The process the behaviors that are used over time to reach these goals is termed socialization.

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Although all societies socialize their youth (in order that, as future contributors to society, the society can survive and prosper), there are marked differences in what different societies, or groups within society, want to see in a youth that has been "successfully" socialized. Said another way, there is great diversity in the specific goals parents have in socializing their youth. Parenting was based on the dimension of parental control to form three different parenting styles. Parental control is defined as "the claims parents make on children to become integrated into the family as a whole, by their maturity demands, supervision, and disciplinary efforts and willingness to confront the child who disobeys. High levels of demandingness can be described as structure and control. Parenting behaviors included in this dimension include parental monitoring and parental discipline practices. Some parenting style adopted by parents that are authoritative, authoritarian, permissive and uninvolved parenting style. Authoritative parents are high in responsiveness and demandingness and exhibit more supportive than harsh behaviors. Authoritative parents encourage verbal give and take, convey the reasoning behind rules, and use reason, power, and shaping to reinforce objectives. This parenting style is most often associated with positive adolescent outcomes and has been found to be the most effective and beneficial style of parenting among most families. It is well established that authoritative parenting fosters adolescents' low parent adolescent conflict. The authoritarian parenting style is associated with parents who emphasize obedience and conformity and expect that rules be obeyed without explanation in a less warm environment. Additionally, authoritarian parents exhibit low levels of trust and engagement toward their child, discourage open communication, and engage in strict control. Permissive parents behave in an affirmative manner toward the adolescent's impulses, desires, and actions while consulting with the adolescent about family decisions. Further, permissive parents do not set rules, avoid engaging in behavioral control, and set few behavioral expectations for adolescents. Finally, uninvolved parenting style has been found to have the most negative effect on adolescent outcomes when compared to the other three parenting styles. Uninvolved parents often fail to monitor or supervise their child's behavior and do not support or encourage their child's self-regulation. Strict parenting style is a cause of parent- adolescent conflict.

II. METHODOLOGY

Exploratory research design was adopted for the present study and cross sectional survey method was used for collecting the data. A total of 300 adolescents in the age group of 13- 19 years, comprising of 100 adolescents each (50 boys and 50 girls) from lower, middle and upper socio economic groups respectively were selected using stratified random sampling technique from different schools of Allahabad city. Kuppuswamy (1962) Socio Economic Status Scale revised by Kumar and Tiwari (2014) was used to ascertain the socioeconomic status of the sample and a Self made questionnaire on parents – adolescents conflict was used to assess the gender based comparison of adolescents in reference to communication related conflict between parents and adolescents.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1:- Distribution of adolescents in reference to the conflicts on discipline related issues between parents and adolescents in the upper socio economic group.

S.NO.	CATEGORIES	BOYS (*N = 50)*		GIRLS (*N = 50)*	
		(F)	(P)	(F)	(P)
1.	Mostly	6	12	3	6
2.	Often	6	12	6	12
3.	Not sure	7	14	6	12
4.	Rarely	8	16	12	24
5.	Never	23	46	23	46

F= frequency
P = percentage

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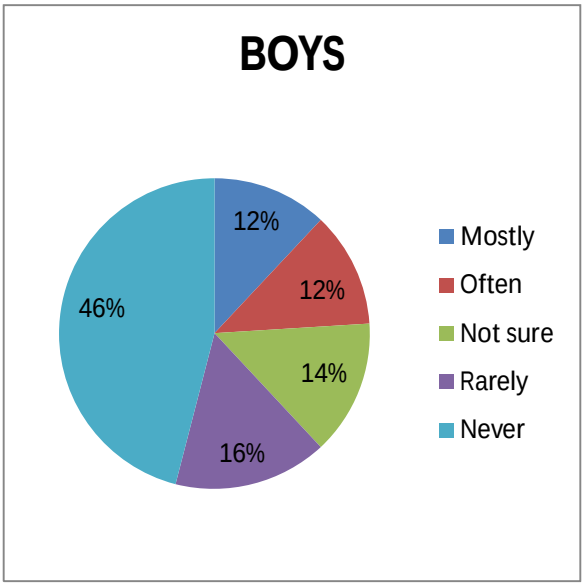


Figure 4.1 percentages distribution of adolescent boys in reference to the conflict on discipline related issues between parents and adolescents in the upper socio economic group.

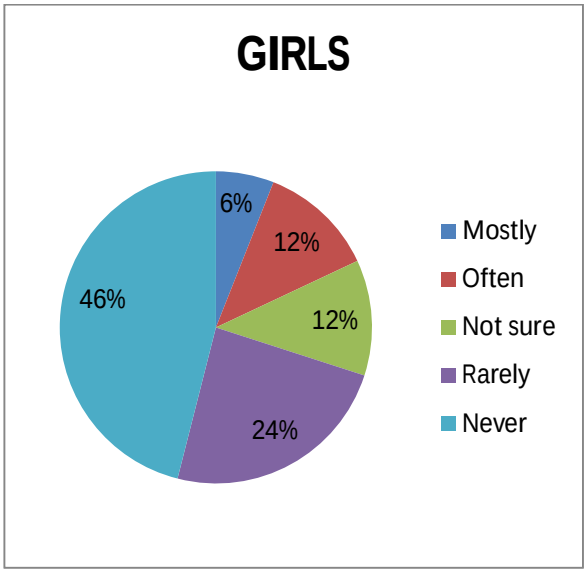


Figure 4.2 percentages distribution of adolescent girls in reference to the conflict on discipline related issues between parents and adolescents in the upper socio economic group.

Table 1 and the figures 1 and 2 represents the distribution of the adolescents belonging to the upper socio income group in reference to their conflict with their parents on issues related to discipline. The distribution of boy adolescents across five opinion categories reflect that forty six per cent boys never have any conflict with their parents and 12 per cent boys mostly get into conflict with their parents. 16 per cent boys rarely have conflicts, 12 per cent often get into conflicts whereas 14 per cent boys are not sure about their feelings regarding getting into conflict with their parents on issues related to discipline.

In case of girl adolescents a significant, 46 per cent of them never get in a conflict with their parents, 24 per cent rarely get into conflict, 12 per cent often get into conflict, 6 per cent frequently have conflicts, whereas, 12 per cent are not sure about it.

Results clearly show that a good percentage of girls and boys both feel that they do not come across any conflicting situation with their parents in reference to the discipline practiced by their parents for their children, which means that their parents have used good democratic parenting style, and the adolescents also agreed to the decisions taken by the parents for disciplining them.

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About half the adolescent population get involved in conflicts with their parents in varied degrees, reflecting that now a days there are a lot of reasons that give rise to the problem / conflict that happen between teenagers and their parents but the biggest ones are related to discipline. Parents want to control their adolescents behavior with their parenting techniques but the adolescents do not agree with their parents' rules. Parents want their adolescents to follow/ stand by their rules and regulations but during adolescent years young develop their own views/ which do not generally match with family and society norms. Many adolescents disagree with their parental discipline because they believe rules are modifiable and need to be modified, parental norms in their view are not correct and are not made according to the need of their generation, these thought of young generation create friction with parent in day to day life.

Collins and Laursen (2004) also reported that adolescence is perceived by parents as a challenging stage of child-rearing. Bickering and squabbling over everyday issues such as chores and responsibilities, household rules, school, autonomy, privileges, and standards of behavior are commonplace for parents and their adolescents, especially during early adolescence.

Table 2:- Distribution of adolescents in reference to the conflicts on discipline related issues between parents and adolescents in the middle socio economic group

S.NO.	CATEGORIES	BOYS (*N = 50)*		GIRLS (*N = 50)*	
		(F)	(P)	(F)	(P)
1.	Mostly	10	20	7	14
2.	Often	6	12	5	10
3.	Not sure	5	10	5	10
4.	Rarely	7	14	9	18
5.	Never	22	44	24	48

F= frequency
P = percentage

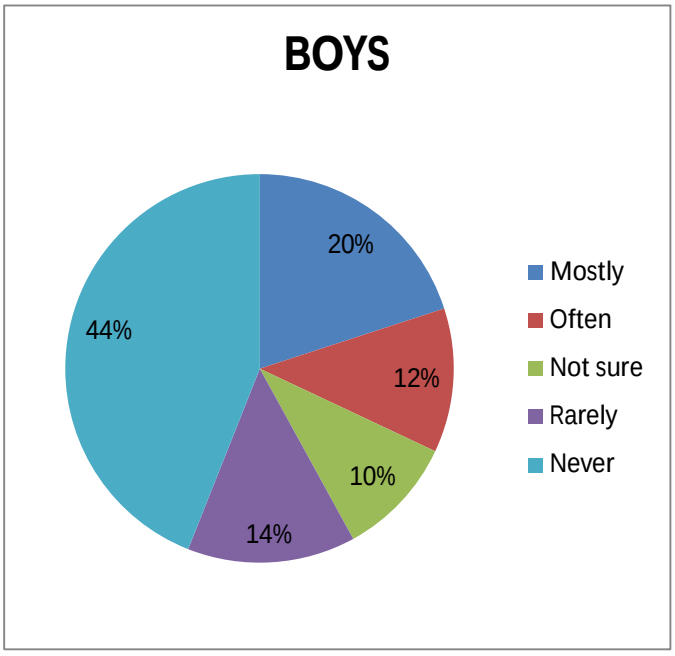


Figure 3 percentages distribution of adolescent boys in reference to the conflict on discipline related issues between parents and adolescents in the middle socio economic group.

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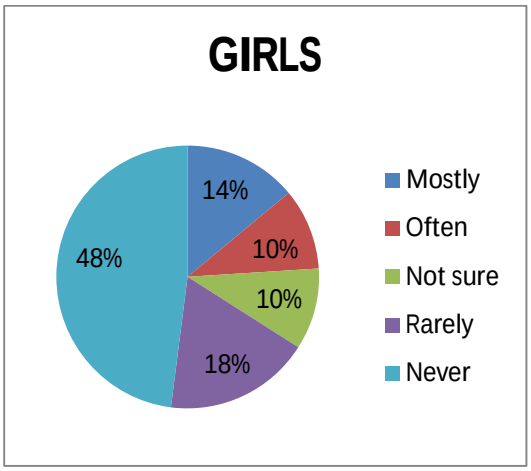


Figure 4 percentages distribution of adolescent girls in reference to the conflict on discipline related issues between parents and adolescents in the middle socio economic group.

Table 2 and the figures 3 and 4 shows distribution of the respondents belonging to middle socio economic group in reference to their conflict with their parents on issues related discipline . The distribution of boy adolescents across five opinion categories shows that 44 per cent boys never have any conflict with their parents related to their discipline and 20 per cent boys mostly get into conflicts with their parent, 14 per cent boys rarely have conflicts, 12 per cent often get into conflicts whereas 10 per cent boys are not sure about their feelings regarding getting into conflict with their parents about discipline being practiced on them.

In case of girl adolescents a sizable, 48 per cent of them never have conflict with parents related to discipline issues, 18 per cent rarely get into conflict, 10 per cent often get into conflict, 14 per cent frequently have conflicts, whereas, 10 per cent are not sure about conflicts related to discipline. Results clearly show that a good percentage of adolescents feel that they do not get into any conflicting situation with their parents in reference to the discipline practiced on them, which indicate that their parents are changing their parenting styles and disciplining techniques according to changing needs and demands of their grouping adolescents.

Some adolescents (boys and girls) get involved in conflicts with their parents, on issues related to discipline as adolescents want freedom for taking their own decisions and practicing them whereas, parents want their adolescents to learn good behavior and attitude chosen by them only for it is easily accepted in their society-----in adolescents view there is no need to modify their behavior as it is correct according to the changing times. Some parents dominate their children, and do not want to any reasoning or questioning on their decisions and power assertion and freedom of adolescents – expression . Adolescence is a time, need to be loved and expressing them- selves openly, but their parents expect their teens to control their emotions' and self- expressions. Which is not good, this is a reason of weak their patents- child bonding and adolescents turn to their peer group and friends, adolescents' sight is their parents are not understand support them than their friends. Adolescents demand freedom to reasoning or questioning on their parental discipline and freedom to express those selves. Krohn et al.(2008). Also support that adolescents living in families who experience more transitions, such as economic hardships, experience lower levels of parental attachment and supervision, as well as less consistent discipline, and more hostile family environments. A child will be more likely to turn to deviant behaviors when their parents utilize coercive parenting techniques or when their techniques are lacking and ineffective

Table 3:- Distribution of adolescents in reference to the conflicts on discipline related issues between parents and adolescents in the lower socio economic group.

S.NO.	CATEGORIES	BOYS (N = 50)		GIRLS (N = 50)	
		(F)	(P)	(F)	(P)
1.	Mostly	15	30	8	16
2.	Often	5	10	6	12
3.	Not sure	7	14	4	8
4.	Rarely	6	12	11	22
5.	Never	17	34	21	42

F= frequency
P = percentage

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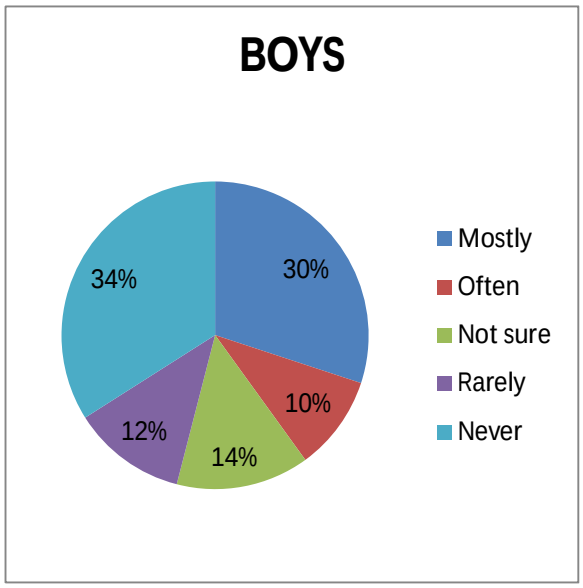


Figure 5 percentages distribution of adolescent boys in reference to the conflict on discipline related issues between parents and adolescents in the lower socio economic group.

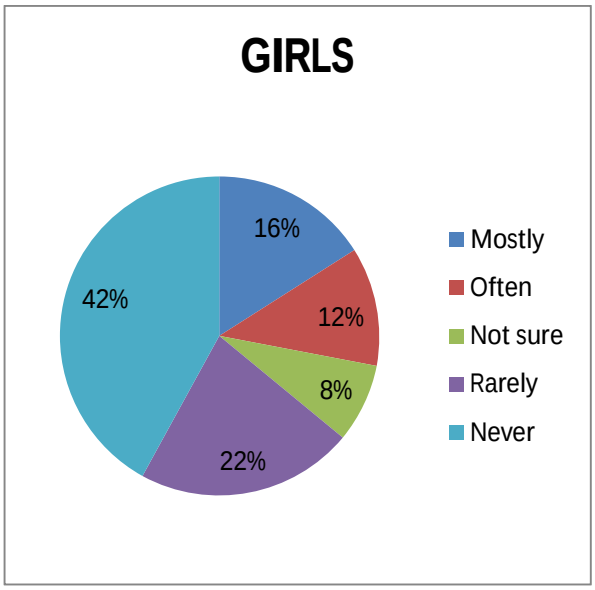


Figure 6 percentages distribution of adolescent girls in reference to the conflict on discipline related issues between parents and adolescents in the lower socio economic group.

Table 3 and the figures 5 and 6 represent the distribution of the adolescents belonging to the lower socio economic group in reference to their conflict with their parents on issues related to discipline. The distribution of boy adolescents across five opinion categories reflect a very contradictory picture where 34 per cent boys never have any conflict with their parents and 30 per cent boys mostly get into conflict with their parents. 12 per cent boys rarely have conflicts, 10 per cent often get into conflicts whereas 14 per cent boys are not sure about their feelings regarding getting into conflict with their parents on issues related discipline.

In case of girl adolescents a significant, 42 per cent of them never get in conflict with their parents, 22 per cent rarely get into conflict, 12 per cent often get into conflict, 16 per cent frequented have conflicts, whereas, 8 per cent are not sure about it.

Results clearly show that less than half population of adolescents feel that they do not come across any conflicting situation with their parents in reference to the issues related to discipline, which means that their parents have been using age appropriate discipline for their teens, and adolescents also understand parents point of views and follow parental instructions.

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A little more than half population of sample adolescents get involved in conflicts with their parents, on discipline related issues because the norms set by the parents are now not acceptable to the adolescent. Adolescence marks the emergence for most youths of formal operational thoughts, the ability to think and reason logically means that many teens now have the ability to present logical arguments to their parents, have disagreements about issues such as routines, dating and chores which is frequently reflected on adolescents desire for individuation, some conflicts between adolescents and their parents is normal during this adjustment period. Conflict is hightend when adolescents wish to obtain autonomy in decisions making at faster rate than their parents, wish to provide. Problems also occur when parents fail to become involved in the process, allowing the adolescents to much autonomy in decision making. Garro et al. (2005); Allison and Schultz (2004) also found parent-young adult conflict indeed indicate that the relationships between parents and young adults deteriorate during adolescence in comparison with parent-child relationships. This worsening of the parent-child relationship is indicated by an increase in conflict, diminished parental satisfaction with parenting and increased parental stress, and a decrease in the parental support experienced by young adults.

Table 4 Gender based comparison of adolescents in reference to discipline related conflict between parents adolescents.

socio-economic groups	Gender	Mean	S.D.	t- score	
		N= 50	N= 50	t- cal	t -tab
Upper socio-economic group	Boys	25.16	3.53	3.5745*	1.98
	Girls	22.64	3.52		
Middle socio-economic group	Boys	25.72	3.53	1.6997	
	Girls	24.52	3.53		
Lower socio-economic group	Boys	31.1	3.42	5.9936*	
	Girls	26.94	3.52		

*significant = $p < 0.05$ level

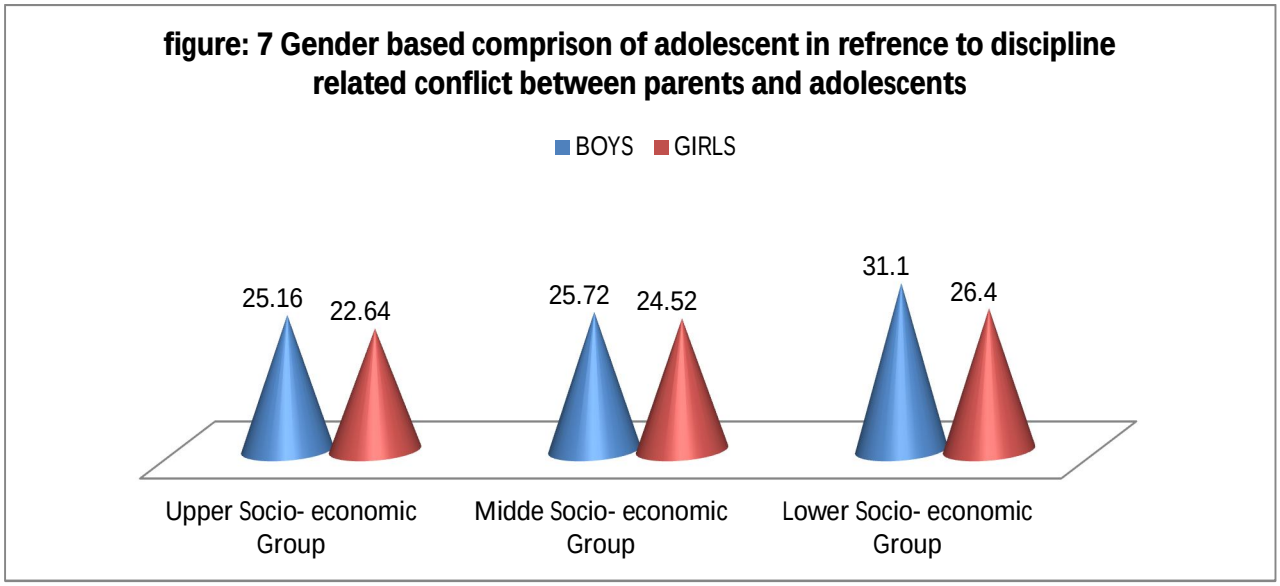


Table 4 and figure: 7 shows comparison of adolescent boys and girls on discipline related conflict between parents and adolescents across upper, middle and lower socio-economic groups. Result indicates that adolescent boys of upper socio-economic group scored higher means (25.16) in discipline related conflict with parents than the mean scores (22.64) of adolescent girls of the same socio-economic group. Comparison of mean shows that the t- calculated is more than the t-tabulated, which means there is significant difference (3.57* at .05 level) between the conflict level of boys and girls in reference to the discipline. The mean score of boys was higher than girls thus boys were found to have significantly more conflict with their parents on issues related to discipline than the girl counterparts. Boys of the middle socio-economic group also scored higher means in discipline related conflict (25.72) with parents, than the mean (24.52) scores of adolescent girls. Compression of mean scores revealed that the t- calculated is not more than the t- tabulated hence there was no significant difference (1.6997 at 5% level) found between boys and girls regarding discipline related conflict with parents. While in the case of, lower socio-economic group, adolescent boys were observed with

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higher mean scores (31.1) than the mean score (26.94) of adolescent girls in reference to discipline related conflict with parents. Compression of mean scores showed that the t -calculated was more than the t -tabulated so there also was a significant difference (5.9936* at 5% level) observed between the level of conflict of boys and girls with their parents. Where boys were found to have significantly more conflict in compression to the girls.

Result revealed that adolescent boys who belonged to the upper and lower socio economic group were on high disagreements with parenting styles compared to adolescent girls who belonged to the same socio economic group, but in the of middle socio economic group no significant gender differences found in the upper level of conflict with parents. In the lower socio economic group boys mean scores were greater than girls scores. In the which means adolescent boys indulged in the conflict more than the girls. Adolescent girls showed less reasoning and power assertion, they were satisfied with parenting styles and adopted proper behavior and attitudes, whereas adolescent boys argued with their parents, they did not understand their parents' parenting style, they demanded freedom for self - expression, they questioned, parental rule regulations and norms. They were not adopting proper behavior and attitudes according to their parental guide line, so many a times discipline related conflicts arised between parent and their adolescent boys.

There is considerable evidence that suggests that socioeconomic status is a strong predictor of parenting. Conger *et al.* (2002) Research suggests that economic status affects parents' psychological functioning, which then affects their parenting behaviors and adolescent's socio-emotional functioning. Parental disciplinary styles and parenting practices vary among families of different socioeconomic backgrounds. For instance, researcher found that economic pressure was indirectly related to poor parenting through high maternal and paternal depressed mood, and also found that poor parenting was related to adolescent externalizing behavior. Lansford et al. (2004) Research suggests that lower SES fathers are more restrictive and punitive with their children engage in higher levels of harsh punishment, and exhibit a parent-centered style or authoritarian style. Further, Yeung et al (2001) have found that lower SES fathers show less involvement than higher SES. In contrast, Querido et al. (2002) researchers have found lower-socioeconomic mothers were more controlling, restrictive, and disapproving than higher-socioeconomic mothers.

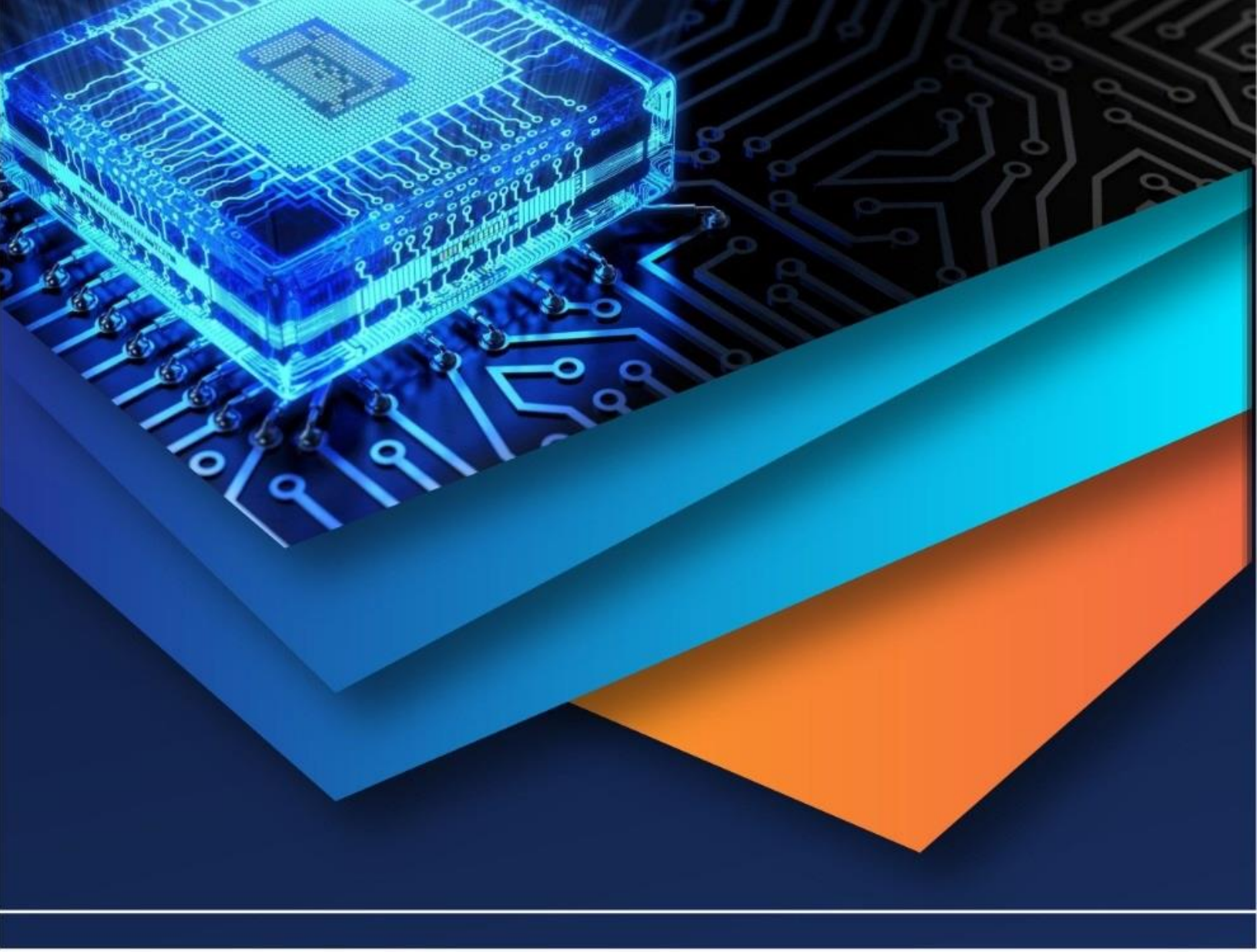
IV. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the present study that there is a significant gender (adolescent boys and adolescents girls) difference in the discipline related parents- adolescents conflict among adolescents who belong to upper and lower socio economic groups and non-significant gender difference exists among those adolescents who belong to middle socio- economic group. The study indicates that adolescents boys were frequently more conflict with their parents than adolescent girls of discipline related issues. The result of the study clearly revels that the socio- economic group is an important factor of discipline related parents- adolescents conflict in the Indian society.

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