

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY



This study is an empirical survey of male and female adolescents' perception of their fathers' and mothers' child rearing practices behavior. Parents' expectation, reward and punishment behaviors toward their children school achievement as perceived by adolescents were also employed. The study also attempts to reveal adolescents' perception of selves, their parents and adolescents anxieties and fantasies toward school achievement.

The sample of this study consists of 146 subjects, 95 males and 51 females. These subjects are studying in Matayom Suksa 1, 2 and 3 (8th, 9th, and 10th, grades) of a co-educational school in Bangkok which has a total population of 861 students. The school contains mostly students who are from middle class families.

The questionnaire technique was utilized as a method of gathering data on adolescents' perceptions of their fathers' and mothers' behaviors concerning child rearing practices, and expectation of school achievement of their children. The subjects also were asked about their anxieties and failure toward school performance. The questions on fathers' and mothers' behavior are identical. The items appeared in random order; and to balance the effects of response "set" the question concerning the mothers were placed first on half the questionnaires, while on the other half the adolescents were asked first about the father.

Semantic Differential Scales were employed to obtain data on adolescents perception about "myself", "my father" and "my mother"

The chi-square technique was used to determine the statistically significant differences between fathers' and mothers' behaviors as perceived by male and female adolescents. The same non-parametric method of analysis of data was employed to test the significance of differences between males' and females' perceptions.

The perception of male and female adolescents about themselves, their fathers and mothers were presented in graph form.

The findings of this study may be summarized as follows:-

1. Middle Class Adolescents' perceptions of their parents' child rearing practices behaviors are very similar. There are statistically significant difference between males' and females' perception as follows:

1.1 There is a statistically significant difference between male and female adolescents' perceptions of their fathers' "nurturance", and "expressive refection" behavior.

1.2 The difference between male and female adolescents' behavior regarding mothers' "achievement pressure" behavior is statistically significant. The percentage of males' perception exceeds that of females.

1.3 Male adolescents seem to receive positive reinforcement from their mothers more than fathers.

2. The fathers' and mothers' behavior on child rearing practices; expectation reward and punishment toward school achievement are perceived similarly by adolescents of both sexes. The differences which are statistically significant are the following;

2.1 There is a discrepancy between fathers' and mothers' "prescription of responsibility" behavior as perceived by adolescents. Mothers seem to impose more responsibility on their children than their fathers do.

2.2 Both males and females perceive that mothers tend to engage in "power" behavior more than their fathers do.

2.3 There is a statistically significant difference between males' and females' perceptions of their fathers' and mothers' "expressive rejection" behaviors concerning their poor school performance.

3. There are some signs of anxieties and fantasies concerning school achievement. Males tend to have higher degree of anxieties over females. The difference is statistically significant.

4. The perception of adolescent males and females toward themselves, fathers and mothers by employing semantic differential scales are generally positive. However, males in the average tend to rate themselves neutral on many scales.

Proposal for further studies.

In the discussion of the finding, some suggestions for further study were made. It may prove worthwhile to summarize these as follows:

1. A replication of this study should be done by using a larger sample which will adequately represent the middle class adolescent population.

2. The same type of study could be carried on among adolescent of different social classes in order to find out whether there are any differences in perceptions of adolescents who came from different socio-economic backgrounds.

3. More sophisticated methods should be employed in an empirical study which will be based on the hypothesis "Males' anxieties and fantasies toward school achievement are higher than females'".

4. A comparison study between adolescents' perception toward their parents' behavior on child rearing practices as in this study and their parents' actual behavior of child rearing practices as in the study of Sears and McCoby should be valuable.