Achievement Motivation and Parental Support to Adolescents

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The parental support exerts most direct influence upon the acquisition of achievement motivation. Thus the present investigation provides an important perspective of the relationship between achievement motivation and parental support. The present study was undertaken to investigate the relationship between achievement motivation and parental support, and to examine the gender differences in parental support. The sample for the present study consisted of 500 adolescents in the age group of 16 to 18 years from Varanasi city who were enrolled in class 11th and 12th. Deo Mohan achievement motivation scale and family support scale were used to assess achievement motivation and parental support, respectively. The results indicate a positive correlation between achievement motivation and parental support. Girls are sensitive to parental support as compared to boys. Achievement motivation is related to success in life, life satisfaction and quality of life. The study revealed that parental support for their children seems to have a strong influence on achievement motivation. The results of the study are generally positive and have an important implication for educators and parents. In particular, parents should support educational activities of their children to enhance their academic motivation.

Parents play a key role in shaping students' aspiration and achievement (Beyer, 1995; Eccles & Harold, 1993; Hossler & Stage, 1992; and Paulson, 1996). Family factors such as parent's level of education, parental expectations, and parental support for their children seem to extent some influences on adolescents' achievement motivation (Beyer, 1995). Achievement Motivation can be defined as a concern for excellence in performance as reflected in competition with the standards set by others or over unique accomplishment or long time involvement (McClelland, 1953). It is the basic ingredients necessary for one's success in life. There has been extensive research on the influences on students' achievement motivation. Psychological research has identified multiple factors which play an important role in predicting adolescents' achievement motivation. These factors are parental level of education, parental expectations, encouragement and support.

Parents play an important role in the educational motivation of their children. They provide necessary facilities and educational environment which results in better performance in school. Parents approve and appreciate activities related to education and remove any difficulty felt by their wards. This type of behavior of parents is known as parental support. In other words parental support refers to the guidance, communication and interest shown by the parents to promote their wards' progress in school. Student progress is facilitated when parents give frequent verbal support and praise, regular feedback for school work and talk directly about school work and activities. Parents also enhance academic achievement of their children by teach them problem solving and negotiation skills. All the