

“A Study of Life Values and Spiritual Growth of Adolescent Children from Christian Families in Avadi, Chennai”

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VALUES

According to the father of Indian Nation
M.K. Gandhi,

- “ If wealth is lost nothing is lost”
- “ If health is lost something is lost”
- “ If character is lost everything is lost”

Best of all things is character

Every one knows that life is precious – that life is important. We all protect our life because we care for it more than anything else. If life is so important, the values of life are even more important. Values are guiding principles or standards of behavior which are regarded desirable, important and held in high esteem by a particular society in which a person lives.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Spiritual growth is the process of becoming more mature in one's relationship with Jesus Christ. Someone who is growing spiritually will become more and more like Christ. The spiritually mature will be able to "distinguish good from evil"(Hebrews 5:14). Spiritual growth begins the moment a person comes to faith in Christ and should continue until a person enters Christ's presence after this life. So it is the duty of the parents and teachers to teach Life Values and Spiritual Growth.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present paper is specifically intended to examine the relationship between Life Values and Spiritual Growth. The above said relationship among adolescents children from Christian families are investigated in this paper referring to personal variables.

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OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To identify the Christian children in adolescent stage from 10-19 years.
- To study the Overall Life Values of adolescent children from Christian families.
- To study the Overall Spiritual Growth of adolescent children from Christian families . To study the relationship between Life Values and Spiritual Growth.
- To study the relationship between Life Values and Spiritual Growth.

Teenagers have the ability to shape each other's spiritual lives in a tremendously meaningful and positive way.

Someone has said the Bible stands for **B**asic **I**nstructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth.

VARIABLES SELECTED FOR THE STUDY

➤ PERSONAL VARIABLE

(i) Gender refers to Male / Female

(ii) Stage refers to

Young Early Adolescent Stage (age of 10-12)

Early Adolescent Stage (age of 13-14)

Middle Adolescent Stage (age of 15-17)

Late Adolescent Stage (age of 18-19)

➤ **RESEARCH VARIABLES**

- Life Values and its dimensions (Achievement, Belonging, Concern for Environment, Concern for Others, Creativity, Financial Prosperity, Health & Activity, Humility, Independence, Loyalty, Privacy, Responsibility, Scientific Understanding and Spirituality).
- Spiritual Growth and its dimensions (Belief about God the Father, Belief about the Bible, Belief about the Jesus Christ, Belief about Holy Spirit, Belief about My Life, Practice of Worship, Practice of Prayer, Practice of Serving, Practice of Sharing the Good News, Practice of Fellowship).

HYPOTHESES

- In the Overall Life Values and in its dimensions there is no significant difference between the Christian children belonging to different groups based on
(a) Gender (b) Adolescent Stages
- In the Overall Spiritual Growth and in its dimensions there is no significant difference between the Christian children belonging to different groups based on
(a) Gender (b) Adolescent Stages
- There is no significant relationship between Christian children's Life Values and Spiritual Growth.

METHOD OF STUDY

In the present study, Survey Method is adopted. The study has focused on the data Collected by using Inventory and Rating Scales.

TOOLS USED IN THIS STUDY :

Tool – 1 LVI measures Life Values (42 Items)

Tool - 2 SGQ measures Spiritual Growth (63 Items)

RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY OF THE TOOL WERE ESTABLISHED.

SAMPLING SIZE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

In the present study, the population selections were adolescent Children from Christian families in Avadi, Chennai. The data were collected from 100 children (Male 50, Female 50) using random sampling technique.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Geographically, sample area selected was Avadi, a sub-urban of Chennai city.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED FOR DATA ANALYSIS

Statistical techniques used :

- Descriptive Analysis (Mean , standard deviation)
- Differential analysis (t - values, F – ratios)
- Correlation analysis (r – values)

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

➤ Findings based on Descriptive and Differential analysis of the data related to Overall Life Values :

- The Mean and Standard Deviation of Overall Life Values were 166.1 and 21.48.
- The Mean Score Percentage was the highest (87%) for Spirituality and the same was the lowest (72%) for Financial Prosperity.
- The Overall Life Values mean score was more for female (166.98) than male (165.22)

● Male and Female adolescent children did not differ significantly in Overall Life Values and in its five dimensions out of 14 viz., Concern for Others, Health & Activity, Humility, Privacy and Spirituality.

● The adolescent children of various stages namely Young Early Adolescent Stage, Early Adolescent Stage, Middle Adolescent Stage and Later Adolescent Stage differ significantly in Overall Life Values and in the four dimensions viz., Achievement, Belonging, Privacy and Responsibility.

➤ **Findings based on Descriptive and Differential analysis of the data related to Overall Spiritual Growth :**

- The Mean and Standard Deviation of Overall Spiritual Growth were 319.81 and 35.66.
- The Mean Score Percentage was the highest (93%) for Belief about the Bible and the same was the lowest (70%) for Belief about My Life.
- The Overall Spiritual Growth mean score was more for female (322.06) than male (317.54)

● Male and Female adolescent children did not differ significantly in Overall Spiritual Growth and in 2 of its 11 dimensions viz., Belief about the God the Father and Belief about the Holy Spirit.

● The adolescent children of various stages namely Young Early Adolescent Stage, Early Adolescent Stage, Middle Adolescent Stage and Later Adolescent Stage did not differ significantly in Overall Spiritual Growth but in 2 of its 11 dimensions viz., Practice of Prayer and Practice of Serving.

➤ Findings based on Correlation Analysis of the data related to Overall Life Values. It is found that the correlation between the dimensions of Life Values was highly significant and also seen that the 10 out of 14 inter correlation were found to be significant at 0.01 level. They maintained better positive inter correlation which ranged from 0.444 to 0.824.

➤ Findings based on Correlation Analysis of the data related to Overall Spiritual Growth. It is found that the correlation between the dimensions of Spiritual Growth was highly significant and also seen that all the 11 inter correlation were found to be significant at 0.01 level. They maintained better positive inter correlation which ranged from 0.473 to 0.827.

CONCLUSION

It may be concluded that on the basis of findings, the adolescent children have had better 'Spirituality' and better 'Belief about the Holy Bible' at the same time they have had less 'Financial Prosperity' and less 'Belief about My Life'. Adolescent stages have brought slight difference in Life Values. Ultimately, the Christian children have had more Life Values in Young Early Adolescent stage than in Later Adolescent stage.

In a country like India, where I am from secularism is being redefined. In this context Christian education becomes both important and complicated while Christian institutions are struggling to hold on to their supremacy in quality and quantity, they are also emerging to hold on to their Christian identity. This makes conference like this very relevant as some of the best minds are here dealing with the "now and here" of Christian Higher Education. I conclude assuring this venture my prayers.



Thank you