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**Title of the Thesis: “A Study of the Self-concept among Adolescents with respect to their Psycho-social Variables”**

### **ABSTRACT**

Self-concept is the collection of our self-perceptions about our beliefs, qualities, behavior etc. Adolescents, at the stage of cognitive development start to engage themselves in abstract self-descriptions that are affected by the various psycho-social factors like familial context specially parents, peers and teachers in school etc. If the psycho-social environment is favorable, it enhances social and emotional well-being of adolescents. The objectives of the study were: 1. To study the Self-concept of adolescents; 2. To study the gender differences in self-concept among adolescents; 3 To study the influence of parenting styles on the development of Self-concept among adolescents; 4. To study the influence of peer relationships on the development of Self-concept among adolescents; and 5. To study the influence of teachers in the development of Self-concept among adolescents. The sample of the study comprised of 200 adolescent students, selected from 10 private schools of South Delhi district, 20 students randomly selected from each school, 10 students each from class IX and class X, further sub-divided in to 5 boys and 5 girls from each selected class. From the overall study it can be concluded that the self-concept of adolescent students was “Above Average” and gender difference in self-concept of adolescent students was not significant. On the different dimensions of self-concept, it was found that boys had more physical and moral self-concept than the girls whereas girls had more social self-concept than the boys. On the basis of parenting style, it was found that most of the adolescent students perceived their parents as authoritative and a significant difference was found between

girls and boys on the basis of their consideration of style of parents as of permissive parenting. On the one hand, Authoritative parenting was highly significantly correlated with the development of self-concept while on the other hand authoritarian parenting style was highly negatively correlated with the development of self-concept among adolescent students. There was 22% of authoritative parenting style had influence on the development of self-concept among adolescent students in respect to their psycho-social variables. The two important factors of peer relationship i.e, Peer pressure and Peer support (5%) had a major influence on the development of self-concept. To study the influence of teachers, it was found that the two factors of teacher influence i.e, Teachers' support and Encouragement (5%) had a major influence on the development of self-concept among adolescent students. It was found from the observation schedule, that teachers' encouragement, confidence and giving examples in the class highly influenced the development of self-concept among adolescent students. Overall it was found that the parents played the foremost role in the development of self-concept of adolescents. Teachers and peers too had their respective influence in the development of self- concept.