

## ABSTRACT

The present research attempts to explore the linkages between parental ideas regarding child development and child rearing. It also describes the existence of form of self as independent and / or interdependent in the ideas of the parents in Indian context. The study was descriptive in nature. The sample comprised of 80 parents that is mother and father from the same families, of two to four year old children, from Gujarati Hindu and Muslim low socio-economic status, residing in Vadodara city. The sample was identified through the communities in the Sayajigunj area in the city of Baroda. These communities were designated as low socio economic status communities by the Municipal Corporation. The income of the parents ranged from 1500/- to 5000/- per month. As the ideas of the parents are influenced by various individual and contextual factors an attempt was made to identify the communities that were in near by areas, constituting both Hindu and Muslim Gujarati families. Sample selection was purposive and the contact was made through snowball technique. The main variables of the study were gender of the child and gender of the parents and religion. The data for the present study was collected through socio-demographic profile, in-depth interviews, rating scale and adjective checklist. The interview schedule was content validated and then finalized. The tools were validated for language. Pilot study was done to field <sup>test</sup> the tools. Proper procedure was followed to collect the data. The data was analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively. Results revealed that the parents had their own ideas about child development and rearing. They were in line with the attributes that parent's value. This in turn gets reflected in the childrearing practices parents adopted for their children. Gender of the child emerged as an important variable which shaped the parental ideas. The responses of the parents were developmental, situational and contextual in nature. For parents independence and inter-relatedness with family members and others were main accomplishments for children.