

One hundred pregnant teenagers and 100 non-pregnant school girls were studied in an effort to determine whether there was any significant difference in the interaction the girls had experienced with their parents. The hypothesis was that the girls who experienced satisfactory parent-child interaction were less likely to become pregnant than girls who did not experience good parent-child interaction during their "growing-up" period. An interaction index was compiled in order to provide a parent-child interaction score for each teenager and thus a definite point of comparison for the two groups. Other variables were also included to examine the differences if any in the quality of their interaction with their parents.

The results revealed that the mother-child interaction score for the two groups was quite different, as also was the father-child interaction score. The mean mother-child and father-child interaction scores were significantly higher for the school girls than they were for the pregnant girls. Although there were fewer father-figures among the pregnant girls, where these girls came from two parent families, their mean father-child interaction score was still lower than the mean father-child score for the school girls. In addition to these findings, the variables which were designed to give additional information about the nature of the parent-child interaction generally indicated that the school girls had experienced more satisfactory interaction with their parents than had pregnant girls.