

ABSTRACT

Adolescents' Stated Response to the Demands of Parents and Friends in Selected Personal and Social Situations

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Adolescents' responses to parents and friends are important to guidance and counselling in investigating some of the determinants of their relationships; and in challenging the simplistic assumptions of a universal intergenerational gap.

In this thesis, the stated responses of a sample of 14-16-year-old Barbadian adolescents to suggestions from parents and friends, in specific situations, are analysed. Differences in response by sex of respondent, and their household structure are sought using the chi-square test. Factor analysis is used to seek factors underlying the adolescents' responses on twenty-four personal and social situations. Family interviews, with a different sample of adolescents of the same age, are used to gain insight into adolescent parent/friend interaction in their family context.

The results of this research design showed Barbadian adolescents more often stating their willingness to go along with their parents than their friends in most situations. There were significant differences by sex, with boys being more willing to go along with their friends than girls, in many

situations. There were fewer differences by household structure, with adolescents in two-parent families, stating their compliance with friends, more often than those in single-parent families. Seven situational factors were tentatively identified by the Factor Analysis.

These findings on adolescents' stated response to parents and friends have implications for all who work or live with adolescents. Contrary to the popular perception of a hostile confrontation between the generations, adolescents may be guided to understanding the complementary role of these persons on their way to attaining the separate identity of adulthood.