

FAMILY EXPERIENCES OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS AND ITS ROLE ON NURTURING POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH IN ADOPTED CHILDREN.

A Systematic Review of Existing Literature

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ABSTRACT:

The parent to child relationship is essential for nurturing positive family interaction which binds the family as a unit. Parent-Child attachment is fundamental to family relationship and attachment stems up from positive parent to child relationship attained in early childhood. It also determines the positive development of Emotional Intelligence, Wellbeing, Adjustment behavior and Self-Esteem in the Child. Most of the studies also reveal adjustment problems faced by the adoptive children and difficulty of adopted children to adjust to their adoptive status and to their adoptive family. Adoption disclosure is also considered to be an important variable which may influence the family relationship including parent-child communication and trust. Wellbeing of the child is another variable which may be influenced by the adoptive status of the child and child-parent relationship. The previous studies suggest a strong need for an intervention in the area of adoption and adoption related services.

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION:

A family is assumed to be a basic unit of socialisation. It is the association of individuals who are related to each other by birth, marriage or by adoption. A family is functional unit of society, without it neither the individual nor the society can survive (Social Structure, George Murdock, 1949). It is universal to every country and community, plays a prominent role in the development of human civilization and culture. Every culture and civilization in the world which are diverse in many ways are all based in fundamental unit called "The Family". Families in various countries and regions follow different customs and traditions, however every family is formed to fulfil some common needs which are universal in nature. Some of the common needs that are met by forming a family includes a place for common habitation where the members feel attached and affiliated to each other, find economic and emotional support, cooperate in routine activities essential for the survival of the family and involve in intimate relationship resulting in child bearing and rearing. Other than these primary needs, a family is

very important tool for socialization, it is from where an individual develops attitude and behaviour by learning social customs, traditions, beliefs, values and other attributes which are imparted to him/ her from significant others. Moreover, family structure which defines roles and relationship within members plays a vital role in overall development of an individual. The theoretical explanation of psychosexual stages by Sigmund Freud, Psycho-social stages by Erik Erikson, Theory of Moral Development by Kohlberg and other prominent theories which give details about developmental stages that an individual pass through underlines the importance of parent-child interactions which becomes the basis of development of personality in later years of life. Influence of family is not limited to psychological growth but has an impact on overall wellbeing of an individual. Recent researches involving factors influencing or influenced by family attachment and interactions indicates why positive family environment is necessary for development of healthy adjustment and socially productive behaviour.

In the theory of Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslow, explains about various levels of hierarchy of needs that an individual has to progress in order to reach the maximum achievement in life I.e. self-actualisation. Only after successful completion of each levels of need ranging from physiological, safety needs, love and belonging needs and esteem needs, finally a person reaches the level of self-actualisation. The basic needs such as physiological needs may be met by individual alone, but when going higher up the hierarchy, a person may need to be part of a primary support group which will satisfy his/ her safety needs and sense of love and belongingness. Hence family plays an important role in every aspects of an individual's life and it is essential for an individual to be part of a family which will provide him peace and wellbeing, sense of safety and security, a place to share love and to be loved, social and emotional support, a sense of affiliation and a common place where his / her basic needs are met.



Fig1.1 Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

❖ **Adoptive Family: The Distinct Family Structure.**

Unlike the family where members of next generation (children) are linked to their parents by birth or by biological tie, in an adoptive family the child is linked to their parents by legal process. In the study titled "Adoption as a Family Form" by Karen March and Charlene Miall discusses how adoption creates an adoptive family, which is connected to a child of another family by the process of adoption. Study also discusses the various issues that arise in an adoptive family with respect to adjustment and family relationship.

The study also suggest that adoptive family may share similar features with step-parent families or families which may be formed by assisted reproductive technology involving donors who lack biological tie between either of the parent and the child.

Hence adoptive family has a way different structure when compared to non-adoptive family, as in a non-adoptive family we see that the child's relation to the parent can be described in a biological context while in an

adoptive family the relationship between the parent and the child is purely based in legal context-hence if in case the whole adoption process was illegal then the chances of the child to have a secure position in the family is jeopardized.

❖ **Emergence Of Adoption As An Alternative Family System For Childless Couples: With Reference To Indian Context.**

In Adoption: The Indian Scene, by Tara Ali Baig and C. Gopinath, explored how the practice of adoption in India as an alternative option for childless couples to have a child emerged from the traditional Indian perspective of adopting a male child with intention to help the adoptive parents during their old age by supporting and caring them, as an only option for those childless parents who want to have perpetuation of family name and continuation of family lineage, for securing the family property and lastly for solemnising the last rites of the father. The motivation behind having a male child was explained as result of Brahmanical influence that prevailed in the Hindu society during ancient period, as they believed only a male child could ensure heavenly bliss to his parents. This age old belief can still be traced in our society where male children are given more preference than female children in most of the Indian family. Adoption in India has roots in Hinduism, where it is considered as a noble practice. Yet emergence of caste system which established hierarchy among different caste, restricted members of the same caste to go for adopting a child who belonged to some other caste or whose caste was not known. However, when times changed and world saw emergence of new social order influenced by colonisation, then by industrialization and finally by urbanization, the perspective of institutionalization of orphaned children became more prevalent, when compared to reintegration of the child back to society by means of adoption. The cause of this practice is believed to have emerged as an impact of poor economic conditions prevalent in the country and greater incidence of children born out of wedlock. With the emergence of legal measures for adopting a child (The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act of 1956, The Guardian and the Ward act of 1890), adopted children's position was made somewhat secure in their adoptive family structure, still the laws were limited to Hindu, Sikh, Jain and Buddhist community and Parse, Muslims and Christians all were excluded from it. The members belonging to other religious communities had only options to act as a guardian of the child, with no legal entitlement to the child. Regardless of the limitations that these laws had, society saw significant changes in the attitude among the childless couples whose motivation for adoption rose above mere consideration of continuation of a family lineage or having a male child for performing final rites of his parents towards having a child who can complete their family.

❖ **The Changing Gender Preferences In Adoption:**

As discussed earlier the strong influence of cultural belief that favoured a male child over a female child in India, the same is not seen with respect to adoption, where childless couples who are desirous of adopting a child, prefer girls more than boys. In a RTI filled by The Times of India to The Central Adoption and Resource Agency (CARA) seeking data with related to adoption after the year 2012, it was inferred that recent trends seen in adoption is the choice of parents in adopting a girl child over a boy. According to the data given by CARA, the state of Maharashtra stands at the forefront, followed by Karnataka and then by Odisha where adoption rate is higher when compared to other states. (Source : Times Of India-<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/indians-prefer-to-adopt-girls-maharashtra-at-forefront/articleshow/64056702.cms#:~:text=Moreover%2C%20people%20feel%20that%20it,were%20given%20away%20for%20adoption>)

❖ **Formation Of The Central Adoption Resource Agency (Cara): A Vital Development In Area Of Adoption.**

A very important milestone in the field of adoption was the setting up of an agency for integration and governance of all the activities related to adoption including inter-country adoption. With the aim to ensure every child who is destitute or orphan gets a loving and caring family, The Central Adoption Resource Agency was

established in 1990, with the developments that took place after filing of a PIL in the Supreme Court of India in 1987 By Lakshmi Kanth Pandey. The Supreme Court judgement emphasized the immediate need to establish a central agency exclusively meant to deal matters related to adoption.

Further amendments that came in recent law related to care and protection of vulnerable children has broadened the scope of its objectives. The CARA after amendments in Juvenile Justice Act (Care and Protection 2015), has the following objectives;

- To promote in-country adoption and to facilitate inter-State adoptions in co-ordination with State Agency,
- To regulate inter-country adoptions,
- To frame regulations on adoption and related matters from time to time as may be necessary,
- To carry out the function of the Central Authority under The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter-Country Adoption,
- Any other function as may be prescribed.

The State Adoption and Resource Agency were established to look after the adoption related activities at the state level under the Department of Women and Child Welfare. SARA is one of the key stakeholders of The Central Adoption and Resource Agency which is further

❖ **The Adoptive Family experiences: Importance of parenting practices in developing positive mental wellbeing in children:**

The parent to child relationship is essential for nurturing positive family interaction which binds the family as a unit. In the study “Parenting and emotional well-being of adoptive school-aged children: The mediating role of attachment” explains in what way the process of adoptive parenting impacts the emotional wellbeing of the adopted children. The study result suggested that there is relevant relationship between children’s attachment in association with parenting style and parenting stress with children’s emotional wellbeing. In this comparative study between adoptive and non-adoptive families, it was found that negative outcome was more observed in children who belonged to the adoptive family group, suggesting adoptive family members having more difficulty when it comes to family experiences such as parent to child attachment. This indicates the need to have a special focus on developing interventions required for nurturing mental wellbeing of the adoptive family with healthy parenting styles and better parent to child relationship.

Chapter II

LITERATURE SURVEY:

The chapter reviews various theories having empirical evidences that are linked with adoption and adoption related process;

THEORETICAL MODELS IN ADOPTION

❖ ***ATTACHMENT THEORY.***

In the study titled “*The Concept of Attachment: Applications to Adoption*” by Daniel Johnson and Edith Fein discuss the application of the concept of attachment to situation of special needs like adoption which will help in matters of intervention and remedy thereafter. It also explores relevant researches related to attachment formation in adopted children by examining current attachment research and assessment procedures. The paper also shed lights on the work of John Bowlby and its relevance to child welfare (1969) in which the author discusses about attachment and attachment behaviour. Bowlby in his work stated how attachment is not related to needs or drives rather it is said to have a survival value, the primary function of attachment is believed to be protection.

The attachment relationship between a primary caregiver and a child tends to develop sense of security and expectations about others on the basis of subsequent social relationship so developed by the child in future. The paper describes attachment as a developmental phenomenon suggesting it to take place not only between the child and the primary caregiver but also with people when new relationships are formed which reinforces the sense of security in them. This implies how attachment theory can be applied in adoption in areas of adoption placement, family environment, and any other matter where the child who has been adopted or the adopted parents feel insecure about their relationship or are unhappy about their relationship. In yet another study by *C S Pace and G C Zavattini* titled “*Adoption and Attachment Theory' the Attachment Models of Adoptive Mothers and the Revision of Attachment Patterns of Their Late-Adopted Children*” examined the pattern of attachment among late adopted children (4 to 7 years) and their adoptive mother. The attachment pattern was examined after the placement of the child to the family by a period of 6 to 8 months after adoption. The behavioural attachment pattern of children was assessed by performing “Separation-Reunion Procedure” and the verbal attachment pattern was assessed by Manchester Attachment Story Task, the attachment pattern of the mother was assessed by using adult attachment interview. The study result suggested child who used to feel insecure during their initial period of adoption, felt more secure when their adopted mothers followed secure attachment model indicating revision of attachment pattern in late adopted children is possible only by means of attachment security displayed by their adoptive mothers.

A study conducted by Victor Groze and James A. Rosenthal titled “Attachment theory and the adoption of children with special needs” elaborates concept of attachment in the context of adoption. The study explains the concept of attachment using two perspectives– 1) Ethological theory of attachment developed by Bowlby and associates and 2) Social Control Theory developed by Hirschi (1969). The former was developed through child development research and the later through research in juvenile justice. According to the ethological theory children during their early stages of life develop a cognitive model of themselves, their care givers and the world in which they live. Secure attachment is developed in an individual who receives nurturing care and support during their early periods of life, on the other hand difficulty in adoption develops when care givers are not responsive to the needs of the child becoming unavailable and hurting. While the Social Control Theory by Hirschi explains the concept of attachment by giving importance to shared time so spent by the members of a family, where a child who is attached to the family is more likely to spend its time in the presence of his/ her parents. Shared time refers to all the activities that are happening within the family including activities under parent supervision and other daily routine activities. This attachment so developed by shared time and physical proximity tends to extend more to a psychological level where a parent and child are attached “psychologically” even in the absence of physical proximity. The psychological attachment is measured by parents trust on the child. Also the parent-child relationship is another important factor in determining intensity of attachment. Closer the parent child relationship, the better child identifies itself with the family. Behaviour Congruence to parental value can be brought in child by stronger parent child relationship. The study utilized random sampling method to draw sample from adoptive families of children which were selected from the list of Iowa Department of Human Services. The survey questionnaire was mailed to the families with a response rate of 70 percentages, I.e. out of 280 surveys mailed 197 responded. The findings of the study suggested a positive parent-child attachment between the adopted child and the adoptive parent. Difficulties in attachment were mostly experienced by children who experienced mistreatment abuse in their early life. The statistical findings of the study suggest lesser positive communication between parents and children as they grow older which in turn result in experience of lesser trust.

❖ STRESS AND COPING THEORY

A study by Daniel W. Smith & David M. Brodzinsky titled “Stress and coping in adopted children: A developmental study” examined how stress and coping model in adoption works among adopted children with an assumption that adoption procedure is a stressful experience for many adoptees which makes them to adapt different coping strategies which mediates the pattern of adjustment. The study explored the various types of

coping responses so used by the adoptees when they came across adoption related stress. Stress appraisals of adopted children were assessed by asking children to characterize their positive and negative feelings with respect to adoption. The Coping Scale for Children and Youth (Brodzinsky, Elias et al., 1992) was used to examine developmental trends in adoption related coping and relation between adoption appraisal coping pattern. Measurement of adoption appraisal was carried out by Thoughts and Feelings Scale (Horowitz et al., 1979) and the Emotional Reaction Scale. The study participants were 85 adoptive children belonging to the age group of 6 to 17 years of age and data was primarily collected using semi-structured interview schedule. The result of the study suggest that adoption related stress is associated with patterns of coping behaviour so displayed by the child.

❖ THE FAMILY ADOPTION COMMUNICATION MODEL:

In the study conducted by Gretchen Miller Wrobel PhD, Julie K. Kohler PhD, Harold D. Grotevant PhD and Ruth G. McRoy PhD titled “The Family Adoption Communication (FAC) Model: Identifying Pathways of Adoption-Related Communication” presented a theoretical model that explains how adoption related communication evolves over time. The model has evolved from changes that are taking place in the field of adoption right from the time when adoption was considered as a noble practice still many of the parents of adopted children decided not to reveal the secret of their adoptive status to their children. Parents earlier feared disclosure of adoption details may lead to generation of curiosity in them and a question may arise regarding their birth parents and real identity. As time passed there were changes in views regarding adoption related communication and now openness in adoption is considered to be more appropriate practice which may ensure positive parent to child relationship and psychological wellbeing of the child. However, as the child grows, his/her perspective about adoption changes and questions related to his/her identity, birth parents and origin may arise when the child attains certain level of cognitive ability. The FAC model describes 3 phases of adoption communication which may help parents of adopted children in smooth communication of adoptive status to their adopted child. The first phase involves telling adoptive story to the child during it’s early period of development. Phase 2 involves adoptive child questioning where the parents respond to child’s question related to adoption. And Phase 3 involves adoptive child information gathering, where the adopted child obtains direct access to information regarding adoption. In both phase 1 and 2 parent is in control over the information so disclosed to the child. In phase 3, it’s not the case, the child gains control and mostly this happens when the child has reached legal age of adulthood. The theory has also been empirically tested, for which data were gathered in the second wave of The Minnesota/Texas Adoption Research Project (a sample of 190 families) and found that majority of the family were in phase 2 of the FAC model.

❖ SOCIAL CONSTRUCT ABOUT ADOPTION: SOCIAL ROLE THEORY.

Karen March carried out a path breaking study using social construct theory titled “Perception of Adoption as Social Stigma: Motivation for Search and Reunion” where she examined the view of an adoptive population as adopted and how secrecy has impacted their adoptive experience. The aim of the study was to explore the adoptive population’s perception of others reaction to their adoptive status, how these perceptions instigated desire in them for a reunion and how the perception was altered after the reunion. A sample of 60 reunited adult adoptees were collected through interview schedule. Most of the adoptees who got interviewed experienced social discrimination, mostly in the form of questions challenging their position within the adoptive family. The study findings revealed how adoptees felt adoptive family as a different type of family, which got intensified when their position with the adopted family was challenged by others. The adoptees also felt others perception of biological ties to be stronger than adoptive family ties. The study suggests that adoptees who reunited with their birth mother or who got information about their biological tie, were more effectively cop up with the social stigma that they experienced before. The study applies the theory of social stigma by Goffman, and how the adoptees have used the technique of getting reunited with their birth mothers to neutralize the social stigma associated with their adoptive status. In yet another important study by Miall, C. E. titled “The stigma of adoptive parent status: Perceptions of community attitudes toward adoption and the experience of informal social sanctioning” examined

how childless women perceived the status of adoptive parent as a discreditable attribute to them as a result of informal social response from the society. A sample of 71 childless women falling in the age group of 25-45 gave details about their perception of societal beliefs of adoption. The study findings indicate most of the participants believed that there is a need for biological tie if bonding has to be formed between the parent and the child. Hence from their view about love and bonding in adoption, it is clear that, adoption is considered to be the second best. The participants also responded about different instances they faced informal social sanctions with respect to adoption.

Sabina Weistra and Nikki Luke in their study titled “Adoptive parents’ experiences of social support and attitudes towards adoption” examines whether attitudes towards adoption are perceived as stigmatized and whether this situation can be overcome by social support system. The study aimed at investigating support that the adoptive family received from family and friends and how important they felt the support was to them. Perception and internalization of stigma was also investigated in adoptive parent and their relation to the support that they received from family and friends. The participants were citizens of UK and Ireland, aged between 30 to 70 years. The data were collected by an online survey which consisted social support and stigma scale. The Family and Friends Support Scale (by Bonds and colleagues (2002)) was used to measure support and The Feeling About Adoption scale was used to measure the social stigma (Goldberg, et al., 2011). Other than the online surveys semi-structured interviews were also conducted for 20 respondents. The study findings suggest that most of the adoptive parents feel there is lack of understanding from the society’s side with respect to adoption. The view of adoption as only second best to having a biological child was seen in most of the response from the respondents as they received less support from family and friends. The study findings also suggested families who received support from family and friends experienced lesser stigma while families which experienced stigma had fewer friends. The interview findings suggested high level of support as well as stigma, while survey showed negative relations existing between support and perception of stigma.

❖ **FAMILY COMMUNICATION PATTERN THEORY AND ITS APPLICATION ON ADOPTIVE ADOLESCENTS.**

Martha A. Rueter and Ascan F. Koerner in their study titled “The Effect of Family Communication Patterns on Adopted Adolescent Adjustment” hypothesized that there is significant interaction between adoption status and family communication such that adopted adolescent are considered to be at higher risk of having adjustment problem in their life who follow certain communication pattern. The Family Communication Pattern Theory was used to test the hypothesis, which suggest creation of shared social reality as central to family functioning. The shared reality is formed by two process- Conversation orientation and Conformity orientation. The spontaneous, frequent interaction about an object or a thing within a family is termed as conversation orientation, while conformity to beliefs and attitudes is termed as conformity orientation. Hence both this process of orientation was studied in adoptive adolescent who participated in this study. The hypothesis was tested by collecting the data from 384 samples of adoptive and 208 samples of non- adoptive families. The average age of the sampled adolescent was 16 years. The hypothesis of the study was accepted as the result supported the study hypothesis when empirically tested. Adopted children were at greater risk of having adjustment problems when compared to the non-adopted adolescents. The study also found that adolescent with families emphasising conversation orientation experienced lower levels of adjustment problems.

Chapter III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- INTRODUCTION:

The chapter of research methodology presents the design or blueprint used for the implementation of current study. Methodology in research is vital for conducting the study as it gives a systematic framework for investigation and finding possible solution for the problem under the study. The methodology chapter offers an overview of significance of study area, population under study, research approach and design, hypothesis and variables influencing the study, sample design and procedure, data processing and method for analyzing the data.

- AIM OF THE STUDY

To analyze the family experiences of adoptive parents with their adopted children and adolescents involving parent child relationship, adopted child's emotional intelligence, adjustment difficulties of the adopted child, self-esteem of the child and wellbeing of the adoptive parents and the adopted children.

- STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Family is basic to all social systems, and since the age unknown family exist in each and every part of the world. Families differ by cultural practices which are specific to different regions and countries. Adoption is one among few options available where a childless couple desirous of having a child adopts a child with a motive to become a parent and also to complete their family. Adoptive families differ from the conventional non-adoptive families which are defined by a biological tie, where the parent to child relationship is determined by birth, in case of an adoptive family the child parent relationship is legally defined.

Unlike those conventional families, adoptive family faces complex challenges with regard to family experiences involving parent-child relationship, adjustment, emotional intelligence, self-esteem and wellbeing in their life.

Hence it is essential to understand what are the problems so faced by the adoptive family by conducting a systematic investigation that may arrive at possible solutions from which best alternative solution may be utilized for improving conditions of the adoptive family.

- SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Unlike families where children are related to parents by a biological tie, in an adoptive family parent to child relationship is legally defined no biological component in it. In a country like India, which is rich in tradition and custom, adoption is considered as a noble act, however negative stigmatization attached to illegitimacy and infertility in the community are common making childless couples to go for assisted reproductive technology or adopting a child from near relatives. Adoption of a child by illegal means is prevalent in most parts of our country and its intention is believed to be an act of maintaining secrecy by the adoptive parents about the adoption status. Progress made in the field of adoption through amendments that were recently carried out in India and change in traditional family set up as a result of industrialization and urbanization led to an emergence of novel practices in adoption. Though much progress is made in this area, recent study results indicate adoptive families are facing problems related to parent-child attachment and relationship, adjustment difficulties, emotional difficulties and issues affecting their wellbeing and self-esteem. Yet researcher have identified significant gap in research area with respect to adoption related studies. Fewer studies are carried out in the field of adoption in India and very few studies have addressed issues that the adoptive family faces with respect to family experiences.

- RESEARCH DESIGN

The study will review and analyze the existing literatures in adoption, hence will utilize secondary data analysis for gathering, interpretation and analysis of the data. Due to the very nature of the design opted for the study and its objective, the study relies on use of secondary data for analysis of already collected data and makes review of previous studies.

- OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To analyse how parent-child relationship is influencing the adjustment problems of the child
- To analyse how parent-child relationship is influencing the emotional intelligence of the adoptive child.
- To review how parent-child relationship is influencing the wellbeing of the child.
- To understand how parent-child relationship is influencing the self-esteem of the child.
- To understand the relationship between adjustment problem and emotional intelligence in adoptive children.
- To analyse the relationship between adjustment problems and self-esteem of the child.
- To analyse the relationship between self-esteem of the child and wellbeing.

- OPERATIONAL DEFINITION:

○ Adoption Disclosure:

Adoption Disclosure is the process of revealing adoptive status to the adopted children and adolescents by their adoptive parent.

○ Adjustment:

It is the process of maintaining harmony with self and environment by taking appropriate modifications of attitudes and behavior with respect to changing life circumstances.

○ Parent- Child Relationship:

A relationship existing between a parent and child characterized by combinations of behavior, feelings and expectations specific to this unique relationship.

○ Self-Esteem:

Perception of overall self-worth or personal value by which an individual makes judgment about oneself.

○ Wellbeing:

A state of experience where an individual meets higher life satisfaction, a healthy life, a sense of meaning or purpose and ability to effectively manage stress.

- DATA COLLECTION AND INTERPRETATION:

The Study will utilize empirical evidences from previous studies and will attempt to discover various factors that are active in day to day interactions of an adoptive family, this will be carried out by a systematic review of earlier literatures.

Chapter IV

SYSTAMATIC REVIEW OF EXISTING LIRTERATURE:

I. UNDERSTANDING ADOPTION: ATTITUDES, TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN ADOPTIVE COMMUNITY

- *Diana L. Baltimore (2008)* in the study “*Understanding the concept of adoption: a qualitative analysis with adoptees and their parents*” examined the experiences of both adult and children with adoption. A total of 25 participants-8 adoptive mothers and fathers with their 5 to 14 years old sons and daughters adopted before 18 months participated in this qualitative study. Phenomenological Methodology was used for data collection. Phenomenological data analysis and narrative report which includes discussion of major themes and sub themes that emerged during the process of data collection were interpreted under the following themes: Parents overall experiences and believes (Theme 1), Need for Education/ Change/Positive Media/Portrayal of Adoption, (Theme 2), Communication (Theme 3), Children’s Understanding (Theme 4), and Identity (Theme 5).
- *David M. Brodzinsky, Leslie M. Singer, and Anne M. Braff* in their study titled “*Children's Understanding of Adoption. child development 1984,*” examined how children understand the various components of adoption. Interview was conducted among sample of 200 adopted and non-adopted children belonging to the age group of 4 to 13 years of age to know their understanding about adoption. Structured Q sort questionnaire were used along with open ended interview technique. The research identified 6 levels of understanding about adoption, starting from level zero to level five where child’s knowledge of adoptive parent child relationship was evaluated and the children were placed at each level according to their knowledge level. The study finding suggested increase in knowledge level of adoption with increase in age. Study also discussed about children’s knowledge regarding motives of adoption and more meaningful motives were received from children belonging to higher age group. Also children belonging to higher age group even start appreciating the uniqueness of the adoptive family status.
- *Dr Cecilia Baxter, Edmonton, and Alberta* in their study titled “*Understanding adoption: A developmental approach*” examines what are the difficulties faced by the adoptive child during his/her developmental period from infancy through adolescence to later stages of life. The study suggests experience of trauma and ill treatment by adopted children in their early period of life may lower their self-esteem. The study suggests of the cognitive gain made by the adoptive children as they progress in their age make them to perceive their status of adoption in a different way with more and more questions arising in their minds regarding their existence and origin. Their doubts and questions get solution or disappear as they attain a new psychosocial level in the process of development. These stages of development which is somewhat different from the way a non-adoptive child would have come across, must be supported by the adoptive parent so that the child overcomes the trauma and negative perception of self and develops a positive sense of self and self-worth.
- *Bethany R. Lee, Julia M. Kobulsky, David Brodzinsky, Richard P. Bartha*(06 December 2017) in their study “*Parent perspectives on adoption preparation: Findings from the Modern Adoptive Families project*” examined parent perspective on for their preparation for adoption by using data from Modern Adoptive Family Survey . Qualitative thematic analysis of adoptive parent’s comments about their preparation for adoption and logistic regression (n=917) were conducted to understand about preparatory experiences that were satisfactory (n=623) or dissatisfactory(n=283). Findings of the study revealed characteristics which may influence the satisfaction with preparation for adoption, which include fewer children in the family, fewer adopted children, child adopted in very younger age, child having fewer prior traumas or special needs. It also suggested preparation satisfaction was the lowest when it was through the foster care system and lower among parents who adopted children having emotional problems, prior maltreatment issues, prenatal substance exposure, learning as well as behaviour problems and higher level of satisfaction was seen in more highly educated parents

- *Rajni Dhingra, Anamika Baru and Ms. Preeti Thapa* in their study “*A Study Of Adoptive Family in Jammu*” psycho-social aspect of adoption was examined among adoptive families in Jammu. The study sample consisted of 12 families residing in the urban parts of Jammu. The sample were selected by using snow ball sampling, Interview guide and observation were the techniques used for data collection. The findings of the study indicated childlessness as a major reason for adoption. A greater harmony in marital relationship post adoption of the child was also identified in the study. Another finding from the study suggest that child adjustment was better among adopted children who were adopted in a very young age.
- *Sayeed Unisa, Sucharita Pujariand and Sujata Ganguly* in their study titled “*Child Adoption Patterns among Childless Couples: Evidence from Rural Andhra Pradesh*” examined what characteristics of the childless couples influences them to go for adoption. Various characteristics of childless couples which were explored under the study are demographic, socio-economic status and treatment seeking behaviour and the way the cope with situation of being childless. The Study explained two avenues which were available for coping with the issue of childlessness that was either to go for new reproductive technologies or adopt a child. The data analysis was carried out using data that was collected earlier for a community based research project in the Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh (Unisa, 2003), the sample was obtained by using stratified random sampling, where the whole villages in the district were grouped into 3 strata, in an ascending order of female literacy. For this study a sample of 332 childless women have been identified. A discourse analysis on topics such as seeking treatment/cost and child adoption, apprehension about child adoption, need for biological child vis-à-vis an adopted child, adoptions within close relatives as against non-relatives was carried out in the study in order to have a comprehensive view of the problem as a whole. The findings of the study suggest that most of the adoption practices in rural area is still carried out in an informal way. Most participants of the study prefer adopting a child within their family or from their relatives and are mostly not aware of the legal procedures related to adoption.
- *Victor Groza, Roxana Kalyanvala and Bharatiya Samaj Seva Kendra Team* in their study titled “*Indian Families Adopting Indian Children*” explored the experiences of Indian families who had adopted a child. The research was part of programme evaluation by Bharthiya Samaj Seva Kendra. The data was collected using face to face interaction and also by mailed survey questionnaires. A random sample of 374 living in Pune city and 672 living outside the Pune city were selected and the questionnaire were mailed to their mailing address. Tools for data collection include Child Behaviour Check List (Achenbach and Edelbrock, 1983) and Behaviour and Emotional Rating Scales ((Esptein and Sharma, 1998) were used. The result of the study suggested that majority of the adoptive parent could get along withier adoptive children I.e. they had positive parent to child relationship. The study result did not find any significant behaviour problems so experienced by adopted children in majority of participating adoptive families. Findings also suggested positive experiences from the adoptive parents with regard to adoption.
- *Saras Bhaskara, and et-al.* in their study titled” *Adoption in India -the past, present and the future trends*” discussed how trends in adoption in India progressed from ancient period to this modern era and how the trend may follow in the future. The study follows a phenomenological approach where interviews were carried out simultaneously with review of literature and books on adoption. The paper discusses right from the rich history of adoption that can be seen in epics and historic reports in India and how the practice of adoption has progressed from the perspective of having a male child to carry out the last rights of his parents towards meeting the need to have a child which will complete their family. The study also discusses how adoption related laws, progress made in child welfare policies and more number of educated parents have brought drastic change in perspective in relation to adoption.
- *Dr. Deepak Sharma (PhD)* in his study titled “*Need to Understand Adoption-Its ways and Hurdles*” describes various ways that has evolved over the years in practice of adoption and what are the hurdles that the parents face while adopting a child. The study elaborates legal ways of adoption by describing how adoption was carried out under the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance act of 1956 where only Hindus were legally entitled for adoption and the Guardians and Ward act of 1890 which gave permission to guardianship of a child and property so inherited by the child to another person when the child is a minor, this act however implied to all religion. The paper also describes how The act of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection 2015) describes adoption as an irrevocable process where the adopted child is permanently separated from its biological

parents and becomes the lawful child of the adoptive parent. The study also sheds lights on why it is important to move legally while adopting a child as it gives secure place for both the parents and the child and ensures status of the child in the adoptive family.

- *Aditya Bharadwaj* in his study titled “*Why Adoption Is Not an Option in India: The Visibility of Infertility, the Secrecy of Donor Insemination, and Other Cultural Complexities*” examines some of the factors that are acting against the practice of adoption in our culture and society. The paper draws multi-sited research projects from which it comes to a conclusion that perceived stigma related to adoption still exist in our society and people who are childless only consider adoption as a last option. When couples find themselves as infertile they choose for assisted reproductive technologies rather than going for an adoption. Even secret gamete donation is considered more favourable than adopting a child. The paper also suggests about the cultural ideals that exist in our society with respect to having a biological child. Adoption in our country and in our society is still considered to be an undesirable because it is viewed as a visible and public recognition of oneself as an infertile where the term infertility is associated with negative connotation in our society further strengthen the chances of successful parenting.
- *M.V. Kartik and MR. Dhanasekar* in their study titled “*Child adoption in India –issues and challenges*” discussed how the practice of adoption in India progressed, from choice of adopting a male child in order to perform the final rights of the adoptive guardian towards fulfilling the need of completing a family. The study focused mainly on what are the policies and legal guidelines related to adoption and how does it affects the process of adoption, the study also looked into the current situation and adoption practices in south India, and finally what are the current practices and future trends that may be seen in the practice of adoption. The study utilized a descriptive method of study, and gave more importance to secondary sources which are mainly retrieved from various articles of research journals, books, e-sources etc. The study findings suggested that there has been huge development in the field of adoption in India especially in the matters of policies and laws related to adoption. The study also discussed the changes in attitude among the educated population of Indians who now are willing to adopt a child irrespective of gender and even greater preference is given for adopting a girl child. The paper further details about the guidelines do given by CARA for adopting a child.
- *L. Di Anne Borders, Judith M. Penny, and Francie Portnoy* in their study titled “*Adult Adoptees and Their Friends: Current Functioning and Psychosocial Well-Being*” examined functioning and psychosocial wellbeing of adult adoptees falling under the age group of middle adulthood. The study conducted among 170 respondents surveyed participant’s demographic details, their current view of life, intimacy, connectedness, emotional/psychological wellbeing and risk taking behaviour. The result of the stud suggested adoptees had low levels of self-esteem, experienced less social support from both family and friends and often experienced lesser psychological wellbeing when compared to their non-adopted friends.
- *Dirk Bethmann and Michael Kvasnicka* in their study “*A Theory of Child Adoption*” provides a theoretical explanation to the demand of adoption, the study makes several testable predictions which has empirical support from previous literatures. The study with the help of a model, explains the prime motives behind adoption to be infertility or childlessness. The other motives so explained by the theory is cost of having an own child (in case of high income earning women who feel child birth may bring a break in their career and cause substantial earning losses) and adopting a child may even create monetary benefit and fame for women who belong to the class of celebrities or high income earning individuals.
- *A E Brand and P M Brinish* in their study titled “*Behaviour Problems and Mental Health Contacts in Adopted, Foster, and Non adopted Children*” examined weather the chances of having mental health contacts is more likely to be seen in adopted children when compared to non-adopted children. The study utilized The National Health Interview Survey, a periodic assessment of major health issues in United States. Using non-probability sampling technique personal interviews were conducted among 47,485 households containing 122,310 individuals. The findings of the study suggested that adopted and foster children are more likely to have mental health contacts than the non-adopted children. However, mixed results were obtained from the study regarding behaviour problems, weather the adopted children have more behaviour problem than non-adopted children. A vast majority of adopted children manifested the similar pattern of behaviour problem as the non-adopted children.

- *Shireman and Johnson* in their study titled " *Single-Parent Adoptions: A Longitudinal Study*" examined the following objectives- what are the problems faced by the single parent in terms of low income and the complexities of managing a single parent household, patterns of adjustment displayed by the children who were adopted by these single parents, and their assessment of gender identity, the single parent and child relationship-nature and intensity of relationship that exist among them, and what are the issues of adoption that takes place in a single parent household and how it is managed. The study followed a longitudinal design, where children who were adopted from the Chicago Child Care Society and the Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois, were interviewed soon after they were placed for adoption to a single parent at the age of 4 and later they were interviewed at the age of 8, the study also had plan of interviewing the child at the age of 12, 16 and 20, as it is a longitudinal study. The study drew samples from the placements of children who were adopted from the above mentioned agencies. A total of 45 placements were randomly sampled with black couples. The findings of the study suggest that single parent adoption faces similar problems when it comes to adoption disclosure, most of the adopted children of the single parents in the study had no knowledge of their adoption, most of them even don't know what is meant by adoption. Positive Parent-child relationship was also seen between these single parent and their adopted children.
- Alfred Kadushin in his study titled "Single-parent adoptions: an overview and some relevant research" reviewed what are the problems faced by a single parent in the matters of adoption and what is the advantage of single parent adoption. The study has summarized some of its hypothesized problems that a child faces when he/she has been adopted by a single parent. The study reviewed empirical evidences on mental and emotional dysfunction, suicides, delinquencies, and sexual identification related to child. The paper findings suggest that a single parent family is equally capable as a two parent family in looking after a child who is adopted, judicious selection of the applicant may further strengthen the chances of successful parenting.

II. FAMILY ENVIRONMENT IN ADOPTION

- *Martha A. Rueter, Margaret A. Keyes, William G. Iacono and et-al* in the study, "*Family Interactions in Adoptive Compared to Nonadoptive Families*" examined family interactions among adoptive and non-adoptive family by observing and self-reporting family interactions between 284 adoptive and 208 non adoptive families and within 123 families with 1 adopted and 1 non adopted adolescent. Analysis of variance was used to make comparison; (Hierarchical linear methods were incorporated in SAS PROC MIXED to control family-related correlations in the data). Parental Environmental Questionnaire was used to assess the self-reported family interactions (PEQ; Elkins, Mcgue , & Iacono,1997). The PEQ involvement subscale was used to measure self-reported warmth and supportive communication. Five item PEQ Structure subscale was used to measure parental control. The parent child conflict was assessed by 12-item PEQ conflict subscale. Self-reported parental control was assessed using the five-item PEQ Structure subscale. Trained observers viewed the family interaction task using Sibling Interaction and Behaviour Study Rating Scales adapted from Iowa Family Interaction rating scale. Findings revealed that there was more conflict among parents and children in adoptive families when compared to the non-adoptive families. Across adoptive and non-adoptive children, the observed parental behaviour were similar even though adopted adolescents were found to be less warm and in families with 2 adopted children the conflict was even more when compared to non-adoptive adolescents.
- *Lizy.PJ* in the study "*Adoption as an Alternative Family System for Childless Couples in Kerala*" intends to show the practice of adoption, its intentions, motivations, reason behind adoption among a sample of couples The study was conducted among 356 adoptive parents in Kerala from 6 district. The study result suggest primary reason or motive of adoption is to have a child to complete their family when they don't have a child of their own.
- *Elaine Farmer and Cherilyn Dance* in their study titled "*Family Finding and Matching in Adoption: What Helps to Make a Match?*" examined various methods of finding a family where a child can be effectively

placed i.e. which child should be placed with which particular family. The study makes a situational understanding with respect to the existing practices in adoption in the country of England. The study reviewed case files of 149 children who were recommended by the local authorities for placing them for adoption. The study found that the most of the matching were of good quality. Poor matching was commonly seen in in-house adoption placements where children faced developmental problems or health related issues, also when children's difficulty to adjust to in house placements were underplayed by the authorities. To improve matching, the search for adoptive family must be carried out early so that child could be placed effectively into the adoptive family.

III. ADOPTION DISCLOSURE.

- *Jayashree Mohanty(2015)* in the study “*Adoption disclosure and behavioural adjustment of domestic adoptees in India*” examined the relationship between adoption disclosure and adoptive family adjustment focusing on behaviour problems of children and child parent relationship. The study was conducted in the state of Orissa, among 55 respondents out of 86 adoptive parents. Post-adoption support should be provided to adoptive families in the form of parental training on issues related to adoption, child development, and how to properly disclose the adoption details to the child. For measuring Adoption Disclosure to the child, a question was asked ‘Have you informed the child that he/she is adopted? The response were given using 5 point Likert scale Behaviour problem index (Peterson & Zill, 1986) was used for parental report of behavioural problems of children. The Parent-Child Relationship scale was used to measure overall satisfaction in parent child relationship. The Rosenberg’s self-esteem scale was used to measure the self-esteem. Findings of the study suggest that behavioural adjustment of children who are adopted was not significantly related to adoption disclosure with reference to families in India. Also multiple regression analysis suggested a stronger parent–child relationship, self-esteem of adoptive parents, and importance of social disclosure predicted fewer behaviour problems in children.

IV. ADOPTION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- Dana E. Johnson in the study titled “Adoption and the effect on children’s development” examines how adoption influences the development of a child, whether adoption can deliver the same positive environment that a child may receive if it was actually placed in its biological family. According to author child adoption ensures normal development of the child in the absence of a biological parent to take care and elaborate the scope of adoptive family to provide similar environment as that of a birth family. The study also discusses how adoptive parenting contributes to the overall development of the child including physical, cognitive, emotional, social skill to promote the dependent child towards achieving the state of independence. The study categorizes the impact of adoption on 3 topics; 1. Post Institutionalized children, 2. Drug-exposed children 3. Infant adoption. The study finally suggest adoptive family can also create environment conducive for the normal development of an adopted child and help him/her in achieving goals to be an independent adult in future.

V. IDENTITY IN ADOPTION-PERCEPTION OF SELF AND HOW THE ADOPTED CHILD IDENTIFIES ITSELF WITH THE CULTURE AND NATION OF ORIGIN IN CASE OF INTRA-COUNTRY ADOPTION.

- *Harold D. Grotevant and et-al* (Oct., 2000 in their study) in their study “*Adoptive Identity : How context within and beyond the family shape development pathways*” explored several context of adoptive identity development which includes intrapsychic, relationship within the family and connections beyond the family, to friends, neighborhood, community and culture. The findings suggested that children with different adoption arrangements have different issues with which to work in the identity

development process. The study also discussed about multiple factors stemming from different sources influence adoptive identity development. Factors include child's early experiences, fit of the child within the family and the surrounding, societal attitudes regarding adoption in general or in specific types of adoption. These when taken together underscores the challenges associated with integration of one's sense of self as an adopted person with other significant domains of identity.

- *Celia Beckett, Amanda Hawkins, Michael Rutter, Jenny Castle, Emma Colvert, Christine Groothues, Jana Kreppner, Suzanne Stevens and Edmund Sonuga-Barke* in their study titled "*The Importance of Cultural Identity in Adoption: A Study of Young People Adopted from Romania*" examined the attitude of adopted young people regarding cultural and national identity in Romania. The study followed a longitudinal approach in data collection and data were collected from the adoptive parents by interviewing, which was done when their child was at the age of 4/6, 11 and 15 years and children of these adopted parents were also interviewed at the age of 11 and 15 years. The study found that most of the adopted children who were now in a different country wished to visit their country of origin at least once in their life. The study also found low level of self-esteem and high level of deprivation-specific problems. The parents interest in sustaining the identity of their children with respect to their children's country of origin declined by the age of 11.

VI. DYNAMICS OF FAMILY INTERACTIONS AND ITS IMPACT ON ADJUSTMENT, EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, SELF-ESTEEM AND WELLBEING OF THE CHILD AS WELL AS THE FAMILY.

- *Dr. (Smt) Kavita Verma and Mrs. Shabnam Khan* in their study "*A Study of Impact of Parent-Child Relationship on Self-Confidence of The Students of Higher Secondary Schools of Durg District*" examined the impact of parent- child relationship on self-confidence of the students of higher secondary schools of Durg district. A sample of 753 class XI students were selected for the study, out of which 454 belonged to rural area and 299 to urban area. A total number of 753 XI class students comprised the sample for the study. i.e. 454 XI class students (223 males and 231 female) from rural area and 299 XI class students (154 male and 145 female) from urban area were selected for the study. The data collection was carried out with help of Parent-Child relationship scale (by Dr.Nalini Rao, revised version 2011) for assessing parent-child relationship and self-confidence inventory(ASCI, by Dr. Rekha Gupta 2005) was used for measuring self-confidence of the students. The result of the study revealed that there is no relationship between parent child relationship and self-confidence of the child.
- *Anshu Suri and et-al* in their study titled "*Parent Child Relationship and Self Esteem among School Going Adolescents*" examined how parent child relationship influences self-esteem in children. Purposive sampling technique was used to collect data from 120 respondents (60 girls and 60 boys) of Anita Girls School and St. Joseph School at Ranchi, Jharkhand. Data were collected using General Health Questionnaire-12, Parent-Child Relationship Scale (Rao,1971) and Rosenberg's Self Esteem Scale (Rosenberg, 1965). The result of the study suggested an influence of parent child-relationship on self-esteem of the child especially a significant difference was seen among male and female children regarding parent child relationship and self-esteem.
- *Pooja Bhagat and Dr. Baliya, J.N.* in their study "*Adjustment of adolescents in relation to their parent-child relationship*" examined the relationship of adjustment of adolescents with respect to parent child relationship. A sample of 200 adolescents were non randomly selected for the study belonging to 9th standard, from Samba District of J& K. Data collection was carried out by using Adjustment inventory (by A.K.P Sinha and R.P.Singh and Parent Child Relationship(By Nalini Rao). The study finding suggested significant difference in adjustment of adolescent in relation to parent child relationship.
- *Paula López-Martínez and et-al.* in their study titled "*The Role of Parental Communication and Emotional Intelligence in Child-to-Parent Violence*" examined the relationship between styles of family communication whether open, offensive or avoidant, emotional intelligence of adolescents (attention, repair and perceived emotional clarity with regard to child parent violence. A sample of 1200 adolescents

were drawn by means of quota sampling method from training centres in Andalusia and the Autonomous Community of Valencia, Spain. Data was collected using Child to Parent Aggression Questionnaire (adapted from Calvete et al., 2013,) for collecting data to measure violence behaviour towards their parents. The Parent Adolescent Communication Scale was used to measure family communication (developed by Barnes and Olson (1982)) and Perceived Emotional Intelligence Scale (developed by Fernández-Berrocal, Extremera and Ramos (2004)) was used to measure the emotional intelligence of the adolescents. The findings of the study suggested that adolescents who perceived positive communication with the parents were able to express their emotions in a socially acceptable manner. Teenagers who scored very low in the variable emotional repair, experienced negative emotions often and found it difficult to replace negative emotions with positive one. Hence when teenagers with low emotional intelligence experienced anger or when they were misunderstood, they do not know how to ventilate it in a socially appropriate manner and may even attack their parents as a mean of expressing their emotional discomfort and frustration. The study also suggested there was a significant difference in handling emotion with regard to gender. The study revealed greater sensitivity to emotions in girls due to gender socialization.

- *Gargi Sharma, Kumud Pandav and Sukhjot Kaur Lally* in their study titled “*Role of family environment on adolescent wellbeing*” examined how family environment is related to subjective wellbeing of the adolescents. A sample of 160(80 Male and 80 Females) students of Lovely Professional University were drawn and data was collected using PGI General Well-Being Scale developed by Dr.Santhosh.K.Verma and Mrs.Amita.K.Verma for collecting details about well-being and family environment was measured by Family Environment Scale (By Harpreet Bhattia and Dr.N.K Chadha, 1993). The study used normative survey research design. The research suggested a positive relationship between family environment and wellbeing.

VII. DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AMONG YOUNG ADOLESCENT AND THEIR PROBLEMS IN ADJUSTMENT CAUSING CHANGES IN SELF-ESTEEM AND EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

- *Hadia Serwat Pasha and Seema Munaf* in their study “*Relationship of self-esteem and adjustment in traditional university students*” examined the relationship between self-esteem and adjustment. The study explored how various dimensions of self-esteem are related to the five domains of adjustment. A sample of 83 students belonging to the age group of 21-23, who were doing their masters was taken from 1 public and two private sectors universities situated in Karachi, Pakistan. The study findings suggest higher experience of self-esteem by students who are well adjusted. Positive relationship was indicated when a bivariate correlation analysis was carried out between global self-esteem and overall adjustment.
- *David Akinlolu Adeyemo* in their study titled “*The buffering effect of emotional intelligence on the adjustment of secondary school students in transition*” examined the relationship between emotional intelligence and adjustment of students who were in the transition period of becoming secondary school students from primary stage. A randomly selected sample of 200 students from five secondary schools of Ibadan city Nigeria. To assess the emotional intelligence of student’s emotional intelligence questionnaire (Schuttle et al, 1998) was used and adjustment was measured using the Adolescent Personal Data Inventory (APDI) by Akinboye (1977). The findings of the study suggest a strong relationship between emotional intelligence and adjustment, higher emotional intelligence were seen in students who are well adjusted

VIII. DEVELOPMENT OF SELF-ESTEEM AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH SUBJECTIVE WELLBEING IN A DEVELOPING CHILD.

- Hongfei Du and et-al. in their study “*Self-esteem and subjective well-being revisited: The roles of personal, relational, and collective self-esteem*” investigated whether relative self-esteem and collective self-esteem can predict the subjective wellbeing beyond personal self-esteem among Chinese college students. A sample of 847 were drawn for four cross sectional study and one longitudinal study. Out these 5 studies so conducted, the 1st study’s findings reflected personal self-esteem’s association with more life satisfaction and meaning in life.

IX. LEGAL ASPECTS OF ADOPTION IN INDIA

- Priyal Garg in the study titled “Legal provisions of adoption in India: A critical study with special reference to child protection” critically examines the law of adoption in India. The paper elaborates various laws that has been enacted in the course of Indian history. The paper also suggests a lack of common law for adoption in general, each religion having personal laws for adopting a child. The only personal law which governs adoption in India is “*Hindu Adoption and Maintenance act of 1956*”. The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance act of 1956 is applicable to all the Hindus including Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs and any person who is not a Muslim, Parsi or Christian. Also there are no general laws in adoption, as the concept of complete adoption is not recognized by Muslim, Christian, Parsi or Jewish community. For them *The Guardians and Wards act of 1890* is followed. The act does not provide any adoption right to the Guardian. Under this act, any person belonging to the above mentioned community desirous of having a child, may act as the guardian of the child till it achieves the age of 21 years. The paper next elaborates recent legislations and agencies that came up with the objective of bringing clarity to the process of adoption in India. These include establishment of *CARA (Centre Adoption Resource Agency)* in 1990 as a regulatory body in adoption related matters, the enactment of *Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children)*, act by the parliament of India on December 2000 with an aim of protecting and safeguarding the welfare and interest of children who are in need of care and support. Amendments were made in the existing act to provide greater sensitivity to needs and rights of the child. The amended version of the same act in 2006 has given more child friendly approach to adoption. The paper then discusses of having a uniform civil code for every religion in matters of adoption, for which efforts were made in the year of 1972, with *Adoption of Children Bill 1972*, which then was opposed by the Muslim community, following a second attempt in 1980, excluding the Muslim community, by then it was opposed by the Parsi community, hence was dropped as a result. The study also underlines failure of legislature in defining norms for inter-country adoptions in India.
- Hansa Apparao in his study titled “*Adoption of Children: The Indian Scene*” discuss the trends followed in intra country adoption in India. The study describes evolution of current policy and practices in relation to adoption. The study reviews various policies and procedures retrospectively and the influence of Supreme Court’s ruling in 1984 which provided guidelines and directions for matters pertaining to international adoption. Later the establishment of CARA (Central Adoption Resource Agency in 1990) to look after cases of adoptions international.

Chapter V

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION:

The literature review reveals the dynamic functions of an adoptive family in nurturing and safeguarding the child which has no biological association with it. The only factor which links the child and the family is legal obligation. Parent-Child attachment is fundamental to family relationship and attachment stems up from positive parent to child relationship attained in early childhood. It also determines the positive development of Emotional Intelligence, Wellbeing, Adjustment behaviour and Self-Esteem in the Child. Most of the studies also reveal adjustment problems faced by the adoptive children and difficulty of adopted children to adjust to their adoptive status and to their adoptive family. Adoption disclosure is also considered to be an important variable which may influence the family relationship including parent-child communication and trust. Wellbeing of the child is another variable which may be influenced by the adoptive status of the child and child-parent relationship. The previous studies suggest a strong need for an intervention in the area of adoption and adoption related services. Also there were fewer research studies conducted in the area of adoption manifesting the need for a study considering the related variables associated with adoption, adoptive family and adoptive children.

Chapter VI

CONCLUSION:

The review of existing literature tracks down problems associated with adoptive family functioning and the root causes responsible for creating disequilibrium in effective family interaction. The paper has identified significant gap in the area of adoption research, especially in families run by a single parent. Adoptive family interactions are unique in nature in terms of family bonding, where there is no biological tie binding the parent and the child, only thing which connects the child to the parent is a legal obligation that is obtained from various adoption regulation authorities of concerned states or countries. It is also unique in the way parent and children interact in an adoptive family and the product of interaction can influence the mental and physical development of adopted children. However, there is significant gap in the area of adoption research and there are several areas where adoptive family is facing problems which could be addressed in future field based empirical research.

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