others is greatly governed by the experiences incorporated during the process of interaction between
the various elements or significant others of the home
environment. These experiences, in turn, dictate the
entire demeanor of an individual. The vulnerable ages
in a person’s life, where, the home environment plays a
pivotal role in molding an individual’s personality are
childhood and adolescence. Nurturance requirements
are essential during childhood. Adolescence being a
phase of physical and psychological changes requires a
congenial, understanding and supportive home
environment, which enables an adolescent to deal with
various stressors, develop clarity among thought
processes, decisiveness and development of self-image.
Specifically, during adolescence the challenges of
meeting the diverse psycho-physiological requirements
of this development phase are numerous. Many
researchers have emphasized that home environment
plays a pivotal role in influencing the various arenas of
adolescent development. The quality home environment
effects creativity [1], learning [2], self-concept [3],
etire psychological well-being [4], etc. of adolescents.

Home environment fulfills the developmental
requirement within the cultural framework. The cultural
component is immediately visible in family adaptation
to home care [5]. It is also, evident that in India cultural
expectations are gender specific. In India, gender is an
important aspect during the upbringing process and
typically influenced by the culture of that state, then, it
implies that the results of home environment perception
in reference to gender of one state cannot be generalized
on the other states exhibiting entirely different nuances
of culture. Hence, the present study was conducted with
the objective of investigating gender differences in the
home environment of adolescents in Pithoragarh district
of Uttarakhand.

METHODOLOGY

For the present exploratory study a sample of
100 adolescents (50 males and 50 females) of 14-16
years of age range was collected through random
sampling technique. The sample was taken from the two
randomly selected government intercolleges of urban
regions of Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand. The sample
was restricted to adolescents were not under any

Scholars Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
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medication for psychological or physiological problems, residing in Pithoragarh for the past ten years and are from middle socio-economic status.

Home Environment Inventory (HEI) [6] consists of ten dimensions, namely, control, protectiveness, punishment, conformity, social isolation, reward, deprivation of privilege, nurturance, rejection and permissiveness was employed for the purpose. The split half reliability of HEI is 0.726 and validity is high.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The results of the present study are tabulated below:

Table 1: Gender differences on various dimensions of home environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. no.</th>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Mean Male</th>
<th>Mean Female</th>
<th>SD Male</th>
<th>SD Female</th>
<th>t-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Control</td>
<td>20.38</td>
<td>21.46</td>
<td>5.38</td>
<td>4.34</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Protectiveness</td>
<td>26.90</td>
<td>28.28</td>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>5.41</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Punishment</td>
<td>24.54</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>5.85</td>
<td>5.32</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Conformity</td>
<td>31.84</td>
<td>30.94</td>
<td>4.79</td>
<td>5.21</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Social Isolation</td>
<td>11.82</td>
<td>12.16</td>
<td>6.19</td>
<td>7.03</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Reward</td>
<td>30.20</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>4.41</td>
<td>4.54</td>
<td>1.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Deprivation of Privileges</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>13.16</td>
<td>5.24</td>
<td>7.24</td>
<td>2.11*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Nurturance</td>
<td>22.96</td>
<td>24.58</td>
<td>4.91</td>
<td>5.19</td>
<td>1.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Rejection</td>
<td>8.18</td>
<td>10.66</td>
<td>4.89</td>
<td>6.66</td>
<td>2.14*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Permissiveness</td>
<td>18.34</td>
<td>20.10</td>
<td>5.56</td>
<td>6.24</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 represents the gender differences in home environment on its various dimensions, namely, control, protectiveness, punishment, conformity, social isolation, reward, deprivation of privilege, nurturance, rejection and permissiveness.

On observing various dimensions of home environment in Table 1 the following results were revealed. It is seen that the mean values on control dimension of females is 21.46 and of males is 20.38. That is, females perceive their home environment to be more controlling than males but this difference is not significant (t value=1.12). The protectiveness dimension reveals means of 26.90 and 28.28 by males and females respectively but the difference is not significant (t value=1.33). Girls reveal their home environment to be employing more punishment (mean=25.2) than boys (mean=24.54) but the difference is again not significant (t value=0.58). Similarly, gender differences in social isolation (mean=11.82 of males, 12.16 of females and t value=0.27), reward (mean=30.20 of males, 31.4 of females and t value=1.36), nurturance (mean=22.96 of males, 24.58 of females and t value=1.64), conformity (mean=31.84 of males, 30.94 of females and t value=0.08) and permissiveness (mean=18.34 of males, 20.10 of female and t value=1.50) are found to be non-significant. In control dimension, the present study indicate that though girls perceive their home environment to be more controlling but there is no significant difference. This result is partially supported by the previous study as on one hand, the previous meta analytic study reveals that parents are slightly more controlling with boys than with girls and on the other hand, the effect size was found to be negligible [7]. The result of the present study on the control dimension was found to be in contrast with the previous finding revealing significant gender differences in this dimension of home environment [8]. This may be the small size of the present study. Contrary to the findings of the present study, a previous study revealed significant gender differences on the dimensions protectiveness, social isolation, reward and permissiveness [8]. This may be due the small sample size taken in the present study as well as the cultural influences in the parental care which are vital in developing and maintaining the home environment of an adolescent. The results of the present study on the dimensions punishment, conformity and nurturance are supported by the results of the previous study [8].

Significant gender differences are revealed in deprivation of privileges and rejection dimensions of home environment. On the dimension deprivation of privileges, the mean of males is found to be 10.5 and females is 13.16. The t value is 2.11. This reflects that females experience more deprivation of privileges in home environment than their male counterparts. This result of the present study is strikingly different from the previous study conducted on the adolescents of Punjab, India, where, it was reported that the males experience significantly more deprivation of privileges, such as, their right to seek love, respect and child care.
from parents than their female counterparts[8]. This difference in results may be due to the cultural variations in the perceptions of child care in accordance to the gender of the child between the two states (Uttarakhand and Punjab).

Similarly, on the rejection dimension, the mean of males is 8.18 and the mean of females is 10.66. The t value is 2.14. This reveals that the females experience more rejection in home environment than their male counterparts. The previous findings indicate towards males perceive their parents to be significantly more rejecting than females [8]. This may be due to the cultural discrepancies between the two states (Uttarakhand and Punjab) from where the samples have been drawn for the studies.

**CONCLUSION**

After analyzing the above results, it could be concluded that female adolescents perceive more deprivation of privileges and rejection than male adolescents. Future studies may explore and compare the cultural variations in home environment among various states of India with a large sample size.

**REFERENCES**


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