

Impact of the Ideal Personalities & Role Models on Youth



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Abstract

Everyone in the world has some ideal or role-model whom he treats as his patron and a perfect figure capable of fulfilling the desires and ambitions of the teen agers in particular. Some of the popular forms of ideals in the life of the youngsters include- legendary personalities, teachers, parents, actors, actresses, politicians, high-achievers, friends etc. The impression of the ideals and role models is very high on the personality of the youth.

Most of teenagers take social media to be a life-changer and strong enough to influence the individuals both in a positive and in a negative direction. Social media provides them several opportunities for social cooperation. Anyway, it should also be taken into consideration that it is the opinion of some of teenagers that social media affects them negatively and misleads them in the direction where they meet nothing but frustration, tension, cheating and bluffing. Anxiety, depression and several other psychological disorders found in the young men and women are the result of social media.

Social media serves the people in several ways. Some of them include movies, serials, live TV shows, fashion shows and advertisements. These shows or movies introduce the heroes and heroines in a way that the young take them to be their representatives. In fact, they seek themselves in these heroes and heroines. They impress the youth in a way that he wants to do the things in the same way as these heroes and heroines do and behave.

The ideals and role models impress the individual both positively and negatively. The research paper prepared on the theme reveals the importance of the ideals and role models in the life of the youth. The findings drawn on the basis of the thorough and minute study of the related literature, reveal both the positive and the negative aspects of imitating the ideals and role models in practical life.

Keywords: Impact, Youth, Positive, Negative, Instinct, Ideal Personality, Role-Models

Introduction

The importance of role-models in the life of man cannot be denied, as they are helpful in shaping up the personality of the individual. They play a vital role in teaching him the lessons of goodness, bravery and humanity through the example of their own deeds. In fact, they become the examples for the individual, and the individual follows them blindly and whole heartedly.

However, it should not be forgotten that the role models are not always ideal personalities. It depends on the approach, desires and aspirations of the individual whom he finds to be his role model.

There are examples of certain evil-minded individuals whose role models are villains and devil-minded persons whom the society pays on respect. It is absolutely right that a positive role model inspires the individual to do good things and never to do anything ban.

Such a positive role model himself is an example for others. Those who have positive role models, enjoy a meaningful life doing good things and maintaining a balance in everything they do or say.

The lessons of optimism, hope, determination, and compassion come from the positive role models who play an important role in the all round positive development in the personality of the individual, and they come into young people's lives in a variety of ways, such as, teachers or educators, political leaders, religious priests, spiritual mentors, mothers, fathers, and even the ones with whom we acquaint just casually and by chance.

The impact of the role models may be both positive and negative therefore, parents should convince the children about role models and the qualities they need to possess. It should not be forgotten that all the role models are not ideal, and that at least some of them may be bad and evil minded persons who are likely to spoil the life and career of the young.

The parents should discuss with the children and the young in the family frankly that the teaching of negative role models can misguide them through their teachings on racism, communalism and anti-social speeches and behavior, and so they should be very serious while making someone their role model.

The adolescents especially need to learn because adolescence is a complex stage of life when the adolescent is unable to define good and bad, or positive or negative. This is the stage of life when the individual may be trapped by some negative role model, and may be misguided and led in a wrong and unapproved direction.

They should be prepared psychologically in such a way that they are able to differentiate between the positive and negative behaviors of the people whom they call their role models. If all this is not cleared to the youngsters, they are likely to believe the negative behavior is acceptable. The positive role models teach the lessons of patriotism, nationalism, bravery, humanity, leadership, while the negative role leaders teach the individuals the lessons of crime, hatred, violence etc.

Several qualities are expected on the part of the ideal role models. However, hereunder, are enlisted only some of the selected and most essential ones-

1. Passion and Ability to Inspire
2. Clear Set of Values
3. Commitment to Community
4. Selflessness and Acceptance of Others
5. Ability to Overcome Obstacles

With these qualities, anyone can be identified as a positive role model who is likely to be capable of developing goodness in the individual, and to prepare him for the future in a righteous way. Hence, it is essential that role-models should not be chosen blindly, rather they should be chosen after much consideration. Before choosing them, the individual should keep in mind his own interests, his family background, family values, culture, religion, sense of humanity, the qualities that establish someone in the society as honest, reliable and good.

If someone is befitting to all these things, he should be honoured as one's role model. On the contrary, if his credibility, identity, approach of thinking etc. are in question, he should not be allowed to be mentor or role model because such a person can teach nothing but anti-social attitude, criminal tendency, forms of crime, violation of human rights etc.

Objectives of the Study

1. To explore, identify and mirror the common personality traits of the youth
2. To develop an understanding of their special likes and dislikes

3. To describe the love of the youngsters for the persons whom they treat as their mentors, ideals and role-models
4. To identify the qualities of an ideal role model
5. To discuss the need and significance of the ideal and role model in the life of the individual
6. To produce examples of some of the ideal personalities that motivate the youth from the various spheres of life other than films and serials etc.
7. To produce examples of some of the ideal personalities from the films, serials and modeling
8. To spot out the impressions that the individual feels on him
9. To interpret the positive effects of the role models on the individual
10. To trace the negative effects of the role models on the individual.

Literature Review

Nuran Hortaçsu, Tülin Gençöz & Atiye Oral (1995), in the study on Perceived functions of family and friends during childhood, adolescence, and youth: Developmental theories of two Turkish groups, find that (1) the importance of needs related to a search for identity and intimacy increased and the importance of those related to dependency decreased from childhood to adolescence; (2) needs related to intimacy maintained a high level of importance during youth whereas importance of the need for self-understanding/development decreased from adolescence to youth; (3) increases in the perceived importance of friends occurred between childhood and adolescence, especially with respect to needs related to identity and intimacy issues; (4) decreases in the perceived importance of parents were reported between adolescence and youth, especially with respect to needs related to identity, intimacy, and dependency; (5) developmental theories of groups and sexes did not differ; (6) group and sex differences with respect to importance ratings of some needs emerged.

Judy MacCallum (2004), in Role Models for Young People: What makes an effective role model program? A report to the National Youth Affairs Research Scheme, examines that the term role model is considered in the widest sense from an individual simply "perceived as exemplary, or worthy of imitation" as described by Yancey (1998), to the inspirer "through personal contact" and "relationship" as proposed by Ingall (1997). Thus, mentors are seen as one type of role model, and mentoring programs are subsumed under the broader category of role model programs. Young people perceive a range of individuals as potential role models, including celebrities and other famous people, family members, adult community members, teachers and peers. They may see different groups as role models in different kinds of ways. Programs involving a range of role models are included in the project.

Elly Robinson (2006), in the study on the Young People and Their Parents: Supporting Families Through Changes that Occur in Adolescence, examines that Identity development is seen as a key task of adolescence. Children tend to

be socialised into quite narrow expectations regarding behaviour and ideals, whereas young people are more aware of a range of different roles, behaviours, lifestyles and belief systems. This can result in a period of experimentation, ideally underpinned by the support of family and friends, when the young person can try on different 'hats' to see what fits best (Heaven, 2001). This process of actively seeking and defining the self through relationships with others, and coming to terms with any inadequacies, is seen as a critically important aspect of identity formation.

N. M. Hurd, M. A. Zimmerman, and Y. Xue (2009), in the research paper Negative adult influences and the protective effects of role models: A study with urban adolescents, examine that adults influence the lives of adolescents in a variety of ways. Bandura (1971) suggests that people tend to display behaviors that are learned either intentionally or inadvertently, through the influence of example. Since identity formation is a central focus during adolescence, adolescents are particularly likely to be influenced by the adults in their environment (Erikson, 1968). Adolescents often look to adults in order to determine appropriate and acceptable behavior, as well as to identify models of who they want to be like. Adult influences, however, can be both positive and negative, and some adults may be more influential than others. In this study, we focused on the negative influences that nonparental adults can have on adolescents and explored the relationship between exposure to negative nonparental adult behavior and negative youth outcomes. We also used a resilience framework to investigate if role models protected youth against the negative effects of exposure to negative nonparental adult behavior. Additionally, we explored the significance of having a role model who was the same gender as the adolescent and the significance of having parents as role models.

Noelle M Hurd, Marc Zimmerman & Thomas M. Reischl (2011), in Role Model Behavior and Youth Violence: A Study of Positive and Negative Effects, investigated how role models' behavior may positively or negatively influence African American early adolescents' attitudes toward violence and violent behavior. Participants in this study included 331 African American seventh and eighth graders from low-income neighborhoods in an urban, Midwestern city. The study used a model developed and tested to assess the relationships between role model prosocial behavior, role model antisocial behavior, adolescents' attitudes toward violence, and adolescents' violent behavior. The model developed was assessed using structural equation modeling. Results revealed the following: (a) Role model prosocial behavior is indirectly related to less violent behavior through adolescents' attitudes toward violence, (b) role model antisocial behavior is directly linked to increased violent behavior and indirectly linked to increased violent behavior through adolescents' attitudes toward violence, and (c) role model antisocial behavior appear to have a stronger effect on African American

early adolescents' violent behavior than role model prosocial behavior. Possible explanations for study findings and implications are discussed.

Hypothesis

1. Every individual is influenced by someone and confers honour upon him as his ideal or role model in life
2. Role model has a lasting effect on the personality of the individual
3. Role model has a significant place in the life of the individual
4. The individual feels motivated by the personality and behavior of his ideal and role-model
5. Anyone on the globe can be a role model for others
6. Celebrities belonging to the various fields impress the individual in a magnetic way
7. Role models can have both the positive and the negative effects on the personality of the individual
8. The role models having a positive effect on the individual take the individual to the unlimited horizon of success and positivity
9. The role models having a negative effect on the individual make the life of the individuals miserable
10. The role models can be of any age group, of any sex, of any religion and of any field imaginable on the part of man.

Research Methodology

It being a qualitative research, the research paper chiefly concerns the socio-psychological approach of the individual. In addition to the author's own observation, perception and experience, secondary information stuff was used to elaborate the theme selected for the study. For it, several sites that supplied the study-maker the required information proved themselves to be fruitful and helpful.

Though qualitative and secondary-data based, the study maintains objectivity during the entire process of research. The research papers selected for the study, and the stuff therein enabled the study maker an understanding about the theme through a minute study of the relevant part of the studies. In order to impart the study a scientific shape, special focus was made on the collection the data objectively, classification of the collected data as per the nature of the selected study and collected data, description, explanation and interpretation, and finally, on the conclusion.

Findings

1. Imitation of others is the human instinct
2. Everyone feels impressed and motivated by others
3. The individual has his own likes and dislikes
4. The ideal personalities and role models, through their impressions, play a significant role in shaping up the personality of the individual
5. Having aspirations, desires, ambitions are some of the common personality traits of the youth
6. The adolescents and teen-agers have a serious concern for the ideal personalities and role-models

7. The youngsters blindly follow, support and imitate their role-models without any consideration to their reality
8. The ideal role model is one who is capable of linking the individual with the society through his positive deeds
9. The need and significance of the role model lies in the fact that the individual can be directed in a positive direction and can motivate him to attain his goals
10. The social reformers, such as, Swami Vivekanand, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Maharana Pratap, Indira Gandhi, Mr. Narendra Modi, Sachin Tendulker, etc are some of the non-filmy role models for the Indian youth
11. Amitabh Bachchan, Lata Mangeshkar, Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar, Rekha etc. are some of the filmy role models for the Indian youth
12. The role models develop in the individual a good dressing sense, passion for education and career, qualities of leadership, nationalism, heroism, sense of humanity and doing good to others
13. The positive effects of the role models develop in the individual a constructive approach
14. The negative effects of the role models develop in the individual a destructive approach
15. The individual feels the influence of his ideal role model the whole life, and he never forgets him or her

16. The positive role models should be preferred and followed for the sake of learning the lessons of goodness
17. The negative role models should be avoided rigidly because a single mistake may spoil the whole life and career.

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