

Internalizing and Externalizing Behaviours in Institutionalized Children in relation to Parental Living Status

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HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE:

Therissa Benerji, Madhavi Kodali. Internalizing and Externalizing Behaviours in Institutionalized Children in relation to Parental Living Status. RFP Ind Jr of Med Psy. 2025; 8(1): 17-25.

ABSTRACT

Context: Childhood development relies on stable caregiving, and disruptions like parental loss can impact emotional and behavioural outcomes. Institutionalized children, often deprived of parental care, are at greater risk for internalizing (e.g., anxiety, withdrawal) and externalizing (e.g., aggression, hyperactivity) behaviours. Understanding how parental living status affects these behaviours is key to improving their psychological well-being.

Aims: This research aimed to study and compare the occurrence of internalizing and externalizing behavioural problems among institutionalized children in relation to their parental living status.

Settings and Design: A cross-sectional observational study was conducted among school-going children in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh, India. The sample included institutionalized (Group A, n=120) and non-institutionalized (Group B, n=100) children.

Methods and Material: Behavioural assessments using the Strengths and

