

## Abstract

The present study explores the unearthed area about how masculinity is constructed among the high school boys of North Kolkata. The kernel departure point here was to explore how boys studying in XI<sup>th</sup> and XII<sup>th</sup> standards of different schools of North Kolkata practice and construct notions of masculinity both at home through their structured and unstructured leisure activities and at school through their school activities and their interaction with school and neighbourhood peers. Despite the nascent beginning of the arena of masculinity in India, yet the issue of masculinity construction among high school going adolescents is to be considered of significance in the discipline of Sociology of Gender. It is against this backdrop, the present research involved the objectives of how parents' contribution helped in the construction of masculinity of their adolescent sons. It also explores how these adolescent boys negotiate and practice their notions of masculinity through various structured and unstructured leisure activities that they engage in along with the different types of peers that these boys interact with both at school and at neighbourhood. Methodologically, the present research has been carried out with the help of in-depth face-to-face (unstructured) interviews of 100 high school boys of North Kolkata where the attempt has been made to reflect how family (parents from Bengali middle class) produces a significant impact in the adolescent life of youngsters through the different parenting styles adopted by them and whether any kind of changes in family structure are significant for the development of male adolescents. Such in-depth interviews also helped to explore how these adolescent boys of North Kolkata negotiate and construct masculinity by engaging in their leisure activities like attending coaching classes of Cricket and Football, usage of social networking sites, online dating, and body-building, reading magazines and story books, classical dance and music. The study also explores how peer group produces an impact in the construction of masculinity of the high school adolescent boys not only through their interaction with male and female peers, but also through their topics of discussion with their peer group along with their acceptance or marginalization from the group based on the topics they discuss and the activities they engage in school with their peers. However, more fruitful research on the construction of masculinity of adolescent boys need to be given importance so that sociologists in India can widen the horizon of academic discipline to a more enriching one.

Signature

Keywords: *Masculinity, Hegemonic masculinity, Submissive masculinity, Bengali middle class, Locker-room culture*