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ADOLESCENT INTERPERSONAL PROBLEM SOLVING
AND FAMILY FUNCTIONING

P.R. Roelofse

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This thesis describes original research carried
out by the author in the Department of Psychology
of the Australian National University.

.....P. R. Roelofse.....

P. R. Roelofse

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ABSTRACT

The relationship between family functioning and interpersonal problem solving during adolescence are investigated in this study. Two self-report questionnaires were administered to a sample of 413 adolescents (183 boys and 230 girls aged between 14 and 18 years).

The first instrument comprised a MEPS Procedure specially modified for adolescents; it is a content-analysis measure of psychosocial skills displayed in different developmental task areas of adolescence. The second measure was a Family Functioning Questionnaire devised for the study; an evaluation of the level of family functioning, as perceived by the adolescent. It assesses the family system in terms of (1) Structure, (2) Affect, (3) Communication, (4) Behaviour control, (5) Value transmission, and (6) External systems. Results support the hypothesis that there is a relation between family functioning and interpersonal problem solving during adolescence.