

Impact of Maternal Acceptance and Rejection on Adjustment Level of Girls

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Abstract: *The purpose of the present study was to examine the impact of perceived maternal acceptance and rejection on adjustment level of college going girls. It was hypothesized that girls who perceived maternal acceptance will be better adjusted in different field of adjustment than their counterpart who perceived maternal rejection. The sample of the study comprised 160 college going girls (80 who perceived maternal acceptance and 80 who perceived maternal rejection) selected from various colleges of Ranchi town on the basis of PARQ score. Girls who scored less than 90 on PARQ considered maternally accepted and who score more than 150 on PARQ considered maternally rejected girls. To collect the required data for the present study Hindi adaptation of Bell adjustment inventory developed by Mohsin and Shamshad was administered on all subjects. The obtained data were analyzed with the help of Mean, SD and 't' test. Result shows that maternally accepted girls have high level of adjustment in comparison to the maternally rejected girls. On the basis of obtained result it was also concluded that adjustment is affected by parental behavior.*

Keywords: Adjustment, Maternal Acceptance and Rejection

1. Introduction

Adjustment is a process by which living organisms satisfy their needs and circumstances. It refers to the interaction between the inner demands and external demands of the individual. A person is said to be adjusted to the extent that he is maintaining a balance between the personal and the environmental demands. According to Cronbach (1953) a well adjusted person is one who commits oneself to socially desirable goals and uses their energies effectively in working towards them. The individual has a sense of security and feeling of adequacy, which grow out of their feelings of belongingness, being desired and appreciated.

Parental love is essential to the healthy social and emotional development of children. Parental acceptance-rejection theory (PAR Theory) described that Children everywhere need a specific form of positive response acceptance from parents and other primary caregivers. When this need is not met satisfactorily, children worldwide regardless of variations in culture, gender, age, ethnicity, or other such defining conditions tend to report themselves to be hostile and aggressive, dependent or defensively independent, impaired in self-esteem and self-adequacy, emotionally unresponsive, emotionally unstable, and to have a negative worldview, among other responses.

Parental acceptance and rejection plays a vital role in the development of personality, specifically that rejection in childhood leads to Emotional immaturity, psychosocial maladjustment, academic problem in success and competence of adolescents. There are various studies attempted to investigate these, which is as follows:

According to the Rohner's study, parental hostility was significantly related to certain personality dispositions including hostility, negative self esteem and self adequacy, emotional instability, negative world view and dependency.

Campo et al (1992) examined the relationship between perceived parental acceptance-rejection, psychological adjustment, and substance abuse. A volunteer sample of 40 young adult substance abusers was compared to a comparable volunteer sample of 40 non-abusers with respect to individuals' perceptions of paternal and maternal acceptance-rejection and psychological adjustment. Results of the research show that: (a) Both perceived paternal and maternal rejection in childhood tend to be significantly higher among substance abusers than among non-abusers, and; (b) substance abusers are more impaired in their current psychological adjustment than are non-abusers. These two classes of predictor variables yield a correlation of .77 with group membership (i.e., abusers vs. non-abusers), and the three predictor variables successfully discriminate substance abusers from non-abusers.

Lila et al. (2007) analyzed the relationship between perceived paternal and maternal acceptance and children's adjustment. The sample consisted of 234 children and 234 parental figures (mother or primary female caregiver, and father or primary male caregiver) living in two parent nuclear families in Colombia. The children's age range was 7 to 13 ($M = 9.7$). Children completed the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (Child PARQ mother and father versions; Rohner, 1990), and the Personality Assessment Questionnaire (PAQ; Rohner, 1990). Parents completed the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL; Achenbach & Edelbrock, 1983). The analyses revealed that perceived paternal and maternal acceptance were both related to self-reported children's psychological adjustment. Perceived acceptance from mothers, but not from fathers, was directly related to children's behavioral problems as reported by parents. Results suggested that the effect of perceived paternal acceptance on children's behavioral problems is indirect, and that maternal acceptance mediates the effects of paternal acceptance.

1.1 Objectives

Objective of the study was to examine the impact of perceived maternal acceptance and rejection on adjustment level of college going girls.

1.2 Hypotheses

It was hypothesized that maternally accepted girls will be better adjusted than maternally rejected girls.

1.3 Sample

For this study a sample of 160(80 who perceived maternal acceptance and 80 who perceived maternal rejection) college going girls of BA part I were identified from different colleges of Ranchi on the basis of PARQ. Girls who scored less than 90 on PARQ considered maternally accepted and who scored more than 150 considered maternally rejected. All the girls were Hindu and belong to urban residential area and middle socio-economic status. The age range of respondents was from 17 to 19 years.

2. Tools

1)Personal Data Sheet:-To collect the basic information regarding age, sex, education, SES, family structure and other details about the respondents has been used, which was designed by researcher.

2)Hindi adaptation of Rohner's Parental Acceptance–Rejection questionnaire (PARQ) by Prakash and Bhargava was used for identifying 80 maternally accepted and 80 maternally rejected college students .The PARQ is a self-report instrument designed to measure individual's perceptions of parental acceptance and rejection. PARQ consist of four (4) scales and total 60 items.

3)Hindi adaptation of Bell's Adjustment Inventory was done by Mohsin and Shamshad. This inventory was originally developed by H.M.Bell in English language. Mohsin and Shamshad translated it into Hindi in 1969. Than it has modified time to time. This inventory has two form and total 124 items. It measures adjustment level of individual's in four fields. These four fields are Home, Health, Social, & Emotional.

3. Procedure

At first 80 maternally accepted and 80 maternally rejected college going girls were identified on the basis of PARQ from the various college of Ranchi town. After that Bell Adjustment scale were administered on the selected sample with proper instruction. The obtained responses were served with the help of standard procedure given in the manual.

4. Results and Discussion

Result Table

Dimension	Group	N	Mean	SD	t Ratio	df	Significance Level
Home	Maternally accepted	80	12.76	3.02	2.38	78	0.05
	Maternally rejected	80	14.09	3.97			
Health	Maternally accepted	80	11.03	2.65	3.47	78	0.01
	Maternally rejected	80	12.46	2.56			
Social	Maternally accepted	80	12.74	2.68	0.53	78	Not significant
	Maternally rejected	80	12.51	2.81			
Emotional	Maternally accepted	80	11.37	2.26	2	78	0.05
	Maternally rejected	80	12.11	2.42			
Total	Maternally accepted	80	45.0	7.48	2.41	78	0.05
	Maternally rejected	80	48.03	8.40			

5. Discussion

Going through the data in result table it is clear that maternally rejected college going girls had got high scores on adjustment scale in the entire four dimensions (home, health, social and emotional) in comparison to maternally accepted college going girls. The mean score of maternally rejected adolescent girls was 14.09 on dimension A , 12.46 on B dimension, 12.51 on C dimension and 12.11 on D dimension. On the other hand the mean score of maternally accepted college going girls was 12.76 on A dimension, 11.03 on B dimension, 12.74 on C dimension, and 11.37 on D dimension. The obtain difference between the mean score of maternally rejected and maternally accepted college going girls was significant at 0.01 level on dimension B and at 0.05 on dimension A & D but not significant on dimension C. The mean difference between total score of maternally rejected and maternally accepted girls was significant at 0.05 levels. It means maternally accepted college going girls had

more adjustment than maternally rejected college going girls. Hence the hypothesis was accepted. Results suggested that the effect of perceived maternal acceptance on children's adjustment is direct.

This finding supports the previous findings. Khalique & Rohner (2002) found in his study that perceived parental rejection is positively correlated with degree of maladjustment and parental acceptance is negatively correlated with maladjustment. Munaf et al. (2010) found that childhood parental rejection has significant positive correlation with depressive state in adulthood and parental emotional warmth during childhood has significant negative correlation with depressive symptoms in adulthood.

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the data it is clear that the maternally accepted college going girls have better

adjustment than their counterpart maternally rejected girls. It means adjustment is directly effected by relationship between mother and their children. It is also clear that maternal love is essential to the healthy social and emotional development of children.

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