

A study on Parental acceptance/rejection and emotional maturity of Children of Working Mothers

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ABSTRACT

The present study explored the relationship between parental acceptance/rejection and emotional maturity of children of working mothers. The sample for the present study comprised of 400 children of working mothers and were selected randomly from the elementary schools of two districts Srinagar and Shopian of Kashmir valley. The sample subjects comprised of 8th class students within an age range of 13-14 years. Rohner's parental acceptance rejection questionnaire (1978) and Emotional maturity scale of Singh and Bhargava (1990), were used to measure the parental acceptance/rejection and emotional maturity of children of working mothers. The data were analyzed by using mean, S.D and correlation. The results indicated that, there is significant relationship between parental acceptance/rejection and emotional maturity of children of working mothers.

Key words: Parental acceptance/rejection, emotional maturity, Children, Mothers, working

Introduction

Parental warmth is considered as a bipolar dimension where rejection or the absence of parental warmth and affection, stands at one pole of the scale in opposition to acceptance at the other. Accepting parents perceive their children as having many positive qualities and they enjoy being with their children. Accepting parents are those, who show their love or affection towards their children physically and/or verbally, which induces a child to feel loved or accepted. According to Rohner (1990) rejection is manifested around the world in two principal ways, namely, in the form of parental hostility and aggression on the one hand, and in the form of parental indifference and neglect on the other. Hostility includes feelings of anger, resentment and enmity toward the child, whereas indifference refers to a lack of concern or interest in the child. Hostile parents are likely to be aggressive, either physically or verbally, and indifferent parents are likely to be physically or psychologically remote from their children or inaccessible to them (to ignore their children's bids for attention, help, and comfort) and to be unresponsive to the children's needs. Rejection revealed as hostility/aggression and rejection revealed as indifference/neglect express a "damaged" or even an absence of bond of parental attachment. Both of these forms of rejection are likely to induce children to feel "unloved" or rejected.

Parents are influential figures in adolescent's search for identity. Parental availability has been hypothesized to influence human beings' adjustment from infancy to late adolescence (Cummings & Davies, 1995; Parmar & Rohner, 2005). In school-age children, maternal warmth predicted children's adjustment in school (Pettit, et.al 1997, Rothbaum, 1988), and involvement predicted academic achievement performance (Melby & Conger, 1997). Parent-child relationships have been found to be a good predictor of adolescent identity formation (Grotevant & Cooper, 1986). Parental hostility increases the likelihood of adolescent emotional and behavioral problems (Conger, et.al 1994). Parental rejection promotes the use of passive coping strategies (Meesters, & Muris, 2004), and less parental warmth correlates with a depression-oneliness-distress factor (Lempers, et.al 1989).