

The Relationship between Parental Rejection and Social Skills among Children of Single Parents

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Abstract

This study was designed to investigate the relationship between parental rejection and social skills among children of single parents. 100 children (49 boys, 51 girls) and 100 parents (42 fathers and 58 mothers) participated in this study. For data collection, the Urdu version of the Parental Acceptance Questionnaire and the Social Skills Scale were administered. Statistical analysis was performed by using Linear regression and single sample t-test. The results showed that parental rejection is a significant predictor of low social skills, showing the beta values ($\beta=.278$, $t= 5.989$, $p<.05$). Furthermore, 7.7% variance is explained by parental rejection towards low social skills. Findings evidenced that perceived parental rejection is a significant predictor of low-level social skills in children of single parents. Results are discussed in the context of cultural factors.

Keywords: Children of single parents, Low income, Parental acceptance questionnaire, Parental rejection, Social Psychology, Social skills,

Introduction

Humans are social creatures and they can't live alone. They have distinctive needs and they can't satisfy their necessities without collaborating with one another. For communication with one another a few skills are required. These skills are known as social abilities. In the same way children also realise social skills for performance in life. These abilities allow them to recognize what to state, how to settle on decisions, and how to carry on in different circumstances. Based on these abilities an individual can separate, control and guide the scholarly execution, conduct, social and family connections and inclusion in extracurricular exercises (Khan, 2005).

Social aptitudes and skills are characterized as a set of competencies that allow an individual to instigate and sustain positive social relationships, contribute to peers acceptance and to a satisfactory school adjustment, and allow an individual to cope effectively with the larger social environment. With regards to social and enthusiastic taking in these can be characterized as perceiving and running our feelings, creating thinking about others, building up positive connections, settling on responsible choices, and dealing with circumstances productively and ethically (Zins, Weissbert, Wang, and Walberg, 2004).

According to Dacey & Traves (2002) children's socialization emerges from diverse reciprocated interactions taking place between themselves and with their family members over a period of time. Parents affect their kid's social development. The everyday connections with their folks are extremely essential. Their consolation and affectability are the two essential things here.

Abell and Mize (1996) expressed that parents who demonstrate positive responsive and tender response toward their kids push their kid to viewpoint the world positively and to have inspirational prospect in regard to their associations with others. Youngsters who indicate elevated amounts of social competence as a rule have positive and fulfilling associations with their parents. Thus, these kids and their parents are skilled to react to one another's verbal and non-verbal signals. Nu-

merous parents of socially capable youngsters have a dependable child rearing methodology and don't utilize coercive specialist or physical discipline as some methods for conduct the board.

Amato (1994) point out that Americans as a rule have felt that a two-parent family is basic for doing admirably in socialization and advancement of social abilities of youngsters. Subsequently, it was comprehended that parental setback prompts a great deal of inconveniences for youngsters, for example, misconduct, dejection, and poor social abilities.

Various early researches establish that young men in separated from families have greater adjustment issues when contrasted with girls. It was likewise noticed that young men by and large live with their mom's ensuing family intrusion, the disappointment of connect with the equivalent sex parent may conceivably report for such a uniqueness. In aggregation, young men, when contrasted with young ladies, may be uncovered to more conflicts, get less assistance from guardians and others, and be chosen on additional by custodial moms. It has been likewise proposed that young men may maybe be more mentally vulnerable than young ladies to a progression of stressors, and in addition separate. Then again, some different inquiries about end up unsuccessful to find a sexual orientation distinction in youngsters' response to separate, and a couple of studies have set up that young ladies have more issues when contrasted with young men (Crook and Eliot, 1980).

Methodology

Hypotheses

1. Perceived parental rejection leads to low social skills in children of single parents with low income.
2. Single- parenting leads to low level of social skills among children of low income families.

Operational Definitions

Children's Perception of Parental Rejection

Rohner's (1986) The theory of parental acceptance-rejection (PARTheory) referred to parental acceptance as warmth, care, comfort, concern, affection or simply love experienced by children by either parents or other attachment figures. The phenomenon of parental rejection is also conceived as the presence and influence of a variety of physically and psychologically harmful behaviors. For present study high score on parental acceptance rejection scale represent high parental rejection. (Haque, 1981)

Social Skills

Social skills are communication skills, problem solving, decision-making, self-management and peer relationship skills that allow one to establish and maintain a constructive relationship with others. Social skill can be self-boldness, self-assurance, hopelessness, compassion and communication. For the present research the obtained high score on social skills scale represent high social skills among children (Khan, 2005).

Single Parents

For the present research single parents were those who were widowed, divorced and separated from each other with at least 2 years history. These parents were taking care of their child or children financially and without taking help of their spouse.

Low Income Families

Dibsdall, Lambert and Frewer (2002) formulated low income families as those who focus on meeting immediate needs and do not collect wealth for future generations. In the present study, such families were taken as having income less than 10,000 to 15,000 per month.

Participants

Purposive sampling method was used to collect data. Sample included 100 children (49 boys: 51 girls), having age range between 7 to 10 years, studying in grades 1st to 5th and 100 cus-

total parents (42 fathers; 58 mothers) with low income from local schools of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Instruments

Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ)

The PARQ (Rohner, Saaverda & Granum, 1980) measures how children between the ages of 7 and 13 perceive the behavior patterns of their parents on the basis of their rejection. It consists of separate parent forms i.e. Mother and Father, each with 60 items. Each part comprises four subscales; less warmth and affection for parents (20 items); Parents' hostility and aggression (15 items); parental rejection (10 items). PARQ is scored on the 4-point Likert scale with "Almost Always True" (scored as 4) and "Almost Never True" (scored as 1) answer categories. The total score was 60-240, the higher the score, the more the child considers his or her parents to be rejected. The Urdu version of the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (Haque, 1981) was used as a psychometrically adequate measure of reliability ranging from .72 to .90 (Haque, 1981; 1987) for the current study. Alpha reliability in this study was 0.81.

Social Skills Scale

The Social Skills Scale comprises items measuring eight dimensions of social skills, i.e. social assertiveness, apology, empathy, the sharing and cooperation of social labels, communication, self-control and deficiency. Response categories used was four-point Likert scales in which "never" was scored zero and "always" was scored 3. Possible score range is 0-156. The cut-off score is 104. Alpha coefficient reliability of original scale was .93 (Khan, 2005). In present study alpha coefficient was .96.

Demographic Data Sheet

It has been used to obtain information about respondent's different demographics e.g. age, gender, parental status, parental education, no. of siblings, monthly income etc.

Procedure

First of all, informed consent was taken from respective authorities of school, children and parents respectively for data collection. Survey research design was used to study the relationship between variables. Data was collected from two groups: Group I consisted of 100 children and group II consisted of 100 single custodial parents of same children. Teachers of grade I to V were asked to identify if there were any behavioral problems of a student having low socio-economic status and a single parent. Questionnaires were given to children and respective single parent on individual basis and they have been briefed about how to respond to the questionnaires. It has been reassured that all information will be kept confidential. Snowball sampling technique was further utilized in identifying families with similar conditions and to be included in for research purposes.

Data Analysis

Inferential statistical analysis techniques were used to gauge the results. Independent sample t-test has been used to elicit the effect of single parenting on social skills development. Independent sample t-test has also been applied to find out the gender differences in prevalence of disruptive behavior disorders. Lastly, to assess the effect of parental rejection on disruptive behavior disorders and social skills development of the single parents' children, Regression Analysis has been used.

Results

Table 1 shows the distribution of demographic features of children between 7 and 10 years of age. It shows that 9 years of age are, among others, the highest. There were 49 boys and 51 girls in the sample. The table also shows that greater number of children have 5 siblings with the percentage (27%) greater among other. Among the custodial parents mostly children are living with their

mother i.e. 58%. With respect to monthly income mostly children belong to families having monthly income less than 10,000.

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Children (N=100)

Variables	N	%
Age		
7	28	28
8	16	16
9	33	33
10	23	23
Gender		
Boys	49	49
Girls	51	51
Grade		
I	05	05
II	18	18
III	43	43
IV	21	21
V	13	13
No. of siblings		
1	01	01
2	05	05
3	18	18
4	21	21
5	27	27
6	09	09
7	15	15
8	04	04
Custodial parent		
Father	42	42
Mother	58	58
Monthly income		
10,000	40	40
15,000	27	27
Above 15,000	33	33

Table 2. Demographic Characteristics of Parents (N=100)

Variables	N	%
No. of parents		
Mothers	58	58
Fathers	42	42
Parent's status		
Divorced	45	45
Late	55	55

Variables	N	%
Parent's education		
Middle	43	43
Metric	37	37
Graduation	20	20

Table 2 shows the distribution of the demographic characteristics of parents. There were 58 mothers and 42 fathers. Among the parents' status high percentage (55) is of widow single parents. The education of mostly parents is middle i.e. 43%.

Table 3. Regression Analysis for Social Skills from Parental Rejection (N=100)

	B	SE B	β	<i>t</i>	<i>F</i>
Social skills	.379	.132	.278	5.989	8.195

Note: B= unstandardized coefficient, β = standardized coefficient, SE = standard Errors.
 $R=.278$ $R^2=.077$ * $p<.05$

The table 3 demonstrates regression analysis for social skills from parental rejection. The results depict that parental rejection is a significant predictor of low social skills, showing the beta values ($\beta=.278$, $t= 5.989$, $p<.05$). Furthermore, 7.7% variance is explained by parental rejection towards low social skills.

Table 4. Mean Standard Deviation & t-value for Children of Single Parents on Social Skills Scale (SSS) (N=200)

variable	N	M	SD	t	p	95% C I	
						LL	UL
SSS	100	66.68	22.761	16.397	.000	41.84	32.80

Note: SSS; Social Skills Scale; M = Mean; SD = standard Deviation; CI = Confidence Interval; LL = lower limit; UP = Upper limit. $df= 98$, *** $p<.000$

Table 4 shows the mean and standard deviation of children of single parents on social skills scale. The findings reflect that children of single parents have low level of social skills. The value is statistically significant at $p<.001$.

Discussion

Child rearing practices significantly affect early youth socialization forms; including youngsters' social conduct. Valuable parts of child rearing, for example, fondness and steadiness have been seen to foresee both existing together and later social competency in kids. In any case, unconstructive or unsympathetic child rearing can harmfully affect youngsters' social and conduct improvement. At a time when negative parent-children relationships reveal poor social skills, they can shape the negative social behavior of children, have a destructive impact on their translations and responses in social circumstances. In addition, single child rearing by father or mother with a low salary may also have differential effects on the social competence and conduct of Tyke.

In present study, it was hypothesized that parental rejection leads to low level of social skills in children of single parents which has been verified (See table 3). Family peer relationship researchers have pointed out that social skills patterns of children are learned through connections

within the family: parents impudence the social maturity of their children through social behavior modeling and safe monitoring, which enables parents to provide instruction and support (Parke, 2004).

A caring association with parents, for example, may perhaps give encounter that help youngsters be prepared in adequate social aptitudes. Where as a less reassuring relationship with guardians may manual for unconstructive dealings with companions, refusal at school, and advancement of problematic conduct issues (Matza et al., 2001).

The most important family factor, for example, parent-child relationships and family conflicts have also been linked to the advancement of young people's social skills. Contemporary investigations wrap up that family consistency and straightforwardness in family are connected with positive improvement of social aptitudes. While the dismissal of parent child connection and conflict between guardians are strongly linked to the advancement of low social skills and problem behavior in children (Gaylord *et al.*, 2003; Estévez *et al.*, 2005).

The present research also shows that single parenting lead to low level of social skills in the children of low income families (see table 4). Research led by Lindblad-Goldberg, (1989) has shown that kids from single-parent families are progressively likely to have low dimension of social abilities, on the normal, when contrasted with kids from unblemished families. For delineation, kids sprouting up with just a single parent are bound to drop out of school, and experience difficulty keeping occupations as youthful grown-ups. Other cost comprises of dangers to mental advancement, conduct issues, and poor social abilities.

One of the central undertakings of single guardians is youngster concern. On regular a poor single parent spends more hours while considering or working outside for satisfying the kids need of nourishment and so on. This time almost pairs when more than one kid needs care. Consequently, in the single state they can't give appropriate time to their youngsters' social aptitudes advancement (Schmottroth, 1994).

Poor, single, working parents frequently are required to decide among value and flexibility of child care planning. Numerous jobs offer sufficient pay necessitate long and/or uneven hours. For many single parents, this may become impossible to give proper time to their children and usually they use less trained or skilled child care providers that may be a relative who are unable to proper supervise the children.

Conclusion

On the findings of the present study it may be concluded that low social skills are related to parental rejection and single parenting. Low socio-economic status has a strong relationship with low social skills in children. Single parents with low income often are forced to choose between quality and flexibility of child care arrangements. Due to many other burdens single parents are unable to properly care their children as a result the children poor social skills.

Limitations and Suggestions

Taking into account the nature of variables of present study, it would be more effectual to conduct longitudinal study relatively, to scrutinize in intensity phenomena of variables among children over the period of time. Only those children were included in the present study who volunteers for their approval to contribute and whose care givers also participated enthusiastically random sampling technique may illustrate different findings.

Another limitation of the study concerns by the nature of the insertion criterion the sample characterizes a non-random, purposive sample of children, a rural and specific area of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. As the time was limited and sample size was small, the result cannot be generalized

to the whole country. For the rationale of generalizing the outcome, the future study should be conducted with large sample size.

Other variables like emotional problems suffered by parents, as well as teacher's rating about behavior of these children could also be considered

Implication of Present Study

Regarding the present situation of Pakistan, the growing rate of economic problems, single parenting and low social skills have become menace of society. Awareness programs about risk factors and preventions of disruptive behaviors can be arranged in schools involving children along with their parents.

In the light of present study, the awareness programs or seminars for single parents can be started to educate them that how to develop better social skills and how to make their parenting more effective.

The Pakistani society as a whole require to follow constructive moral strategies, more religious teachings, a patient resolution of emotional conflicts, high frustration tolerance, learning and maintaining a balance in all relationships and values. So, awareness programs and problem focused, problem solving seminars and workshops will be beneficial for all age groups of society.

So, the present study has diverse implications for students, practitioners and researchers in the field of clinical psychology, educational psychology, social psychology and among family system approach.

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