



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERCEIVED INTERPARENTAL CONFLICTS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL MALADJUSTMENT AMONG LATE ADOLESCENTS

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the research was to investigate the relationship between perceived interparental conflicts and psychological maladjustment among late adolescents. A sample consisted of 120 late adolescents (70 males & 50 females). In the current research, the Children's Perception of Inter-Parental Conflict Scale (Grych et al., 1992) and the Four-Dimensional Symptom Questionnaire (Terluin et al., 2006) were applied. For all analyses, SPSS (version 27) was used. Descriptive statistics and Pearson correlation were used to calculate the results. The correlation analysis revealed a significant positive relationship among all factors of perceived interparental conflict and psychological maladjustment among late adolescents.

I. INTRODUCTION

Interparental conflicts can be damaging as the adolescent may witness their parents showing cases of outrage and threatening vibes or valuable clashes, which delineate great parts displaying and the utilization of critical thinking systems and warmth (Pinheiro, 2006; van Eldik et al., 2020). The effect of parental conflicts on adolescents relies upon whether the guardians utilized valuable or dangerous methods to tackle their contention (Goeke-Morey et al., 2003; Selçuk et al., 2020). Maladjustment helplessness to respond effectively and acceptably to the requests of one's condition. Despite the fact that the term applies to an extensive variety of organic and social conditions, it regularly suggests a person's inability to meet social or social desires. The purpose of the current study is to investigate the relationship between perceived intrapersonal conflicts and psychological maladjustment among late adolescents. This study suggests a new dimension for psychologists to understand the physical disabled children's relationship-related problem. It was providing a new addition in literature regarding physical disabled children's maladjustment problems due to perceived interpersonal conflicts (Bashir, 2024; Cheung, 2021).

Maladjusted adolescents may experience difficulty fitting in with these desires since they have a behavioral issue (Flamant et al., 2020). Yet, ordinary children, as well, won't consent unless they have a reasonable comprehension of the tenets. Standards exist in any organization so as to guarantee its smooth activity and to advance the sound improvement of people. They are made with the understanding that they will be broken. Standards are built up decisively in light of the fact that negative practices might be anticipated from young people who have lived on the

road and been relinquished by their families. Infractions of the tenets ought to consequently be dealt with as a major aspect of a learning procedure. In light of a legitimate concern for lessening vulnerability and nervousness in children, the guidelines ought to be exceptionally unequivocal; they ought to likewise be coherently steady. Be that as it may, while rules are constantly consistent, reactions are definitely not. In managing negative practices, the staff of a program must think about the causes and conditions of that conduct and the individual character of the children (Palacios et al., 2022). Most children react well to a basic discipline or reprimand. Be that as it may, maladjusted, learning-crippled, and sensitive kids require a more thorough way to deal with treatment (Durlak et al., 2022; Martens & Vealey, 2024).

The minorities of the parent-child affiliation are conflict-free. In fact, a few guardians contend with warm feelings, yet also plainly cherish each other. In this manner, challenging might be a compound of their communication style and might be gainful for them. At the point when between parental clashes are more continuous, extreme, and longer enthusiastic and behavioral troubles (Davies & Cumming, 1998; Pincus, 2023). Family environments include additional stressors, such as neediness or viciousness; marital clashes can be relied upon to have considerably more critical impacts (Cumming & Davies, 2002). Seeing outrage or strife can be opposed for children, and it is frequently connected to expanded excitement, misery, and hostility in addition to enduring adjustment complicatedness as well as behavior-related, passionate, communal, and academic issues. Children from home, described as having high clashes, have all the earmarks of being defenseless against externalizing issues, such as verbal and physical hostility, rebelliousness, and misbehavior, and also internalizing issues, such as discouragement and nervousness (Ameena, 2023; Davies & Cumming, 1998).

II. METHOD

Participants

The sample of the study included 120 late adolescents in Gujranwala. The purposive sampling was used in this study to collect data. The age range under study was 15 to 17 years. Informed consent was provided before data collection from participants.

Measures

Teenagers' opinions of various aspects of interparental conflict were evaluated using the Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale (Grych et al., 1992). This assessment was created for kids and teenagers between the ages of 9 and 17. Three analytically derived subscales (self-blame, threat, and conflict properties) were used to assess appropriate levels of internal consistency. As a result, the scale appears to be a reliable tool for assessing apparent interparental conflicts. Grych et al. (2020) state that the reliability of the scale is satisfactory. To measure somatization, anxiety, depression, and distress in the clinical practice, the Four-Dimensional Symptom Questionnaire (Terluin et al., 2006) can be applied. Four-Dimensional Symptom Questionnaire is quite reliable, and the alpha coefficients are 0.84-0.94 (Terluin, 2021).

Procedure

Late adolescents of various schools of Gujranwala were used as sources of data. The head of the institution was consulted and given the official permission. The participants were informed and provided informed consent and briefed about the purpose of the study. A total of one hundred and twenty teenagers in their late adolescence were recruited to serve study requirements. Data collection was analyzed using the SPSS software (version 27) and analyzed using the various data analysis methods of mean, standard deviation, alpha reliability coefficients, and Pearson correlation. At the end of the investigation, the analysis was discussed and compared with the different research studies.

III. RESULTS

Table 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of Participants

Variables	Categories	<i>n</i>	%
Gender	Males	70	58.33
	Females	50	41.66
Socio Economic Status	Lower Class	30	25
	Middle Class	70	58.33
	Upper Class	20	16.66
Residential Area	Urban	70	58.33
	Rural	50	41.66
Disability	Visual Impaired	20	16.66
	Hearing Impaired	30	25
	Physical Handicapped	70	58.33

Table 1 presents the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants in the study. It shows the distribution of the sample ($n=120$) across four variables: gender, socio-economic status, residential area, and disability. For gender, the table indicates the number and percentage of males (70, 58.33%) and females (50, 41.66%). Socio-economic status is categorized as lower class (30, 25%), middle class (70, 58.33%), and upper class (20, 16.66%). The residential area of the participants is divided into urban (70, 58.33%) and rural (50, 41.66%). Lastly, the table shows the distribution of disabilities among the participants: visual impairment (20, 16.66%), hearing impairment (30, 25%), and physical handicap (70, 58.33%).

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics and Skewness for Interparental Conflicts and Psychological Maladjustment among Late Adolescents

Variables	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	Range	Skew
Conflict properties	24.55	8.26	3-38	-.70
Threat	18.82	3.13	9-23	-1.23
Self-blame	10.71	3.37	1-18	-.74
Somatization	14.27	5.08	3-26	-.21
Anxiety	16.48	3.90	7-22	-.96
Depression	7.80	3.25	0-12	-.43
Distress	21.37	6.46	5-44	-.33
CPICS	56.74	6.79	35-68	-.66
4DSQ	59.75	16.93	17-90	-.66

Note. CPICS= Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale, 4DSQ= Four-Dimensional Symptom Questionnaire.

Table 2 shows descriptive statistics and skewness for perceived interparental conflicts and psychological maladjustment among late adolescents. Results show that all data was normally distributed, including interparental conflicts, psychological maladjustment, and their subscales, and can be used for further testing.

Table 3: Pearson correlation for Relationship between perceived Inter-parental conflicts and psychological maladjustment among Late Adolescents

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. Conflict properties	--	.70**	.78**	.78**	.74**	.71**	.70**	.75**	.80**
2. Threat		--	.63**	.63**	.65**	.64**	.62**	.58**	.70**
3. Self-blame			--	.75**	.63**	.62**	.66**	.77**	.74**
4. Somatization				--	.68**	.79**	.74**	.63**	.89**
5. Anxiety					--	.74**	.82**	.65**	.88**
6. Depression						--	.78**	.62**	.89**
7. Distress							--	.61**	.94**
8. CPICS								--	.69**
9. 4DSQ									--

Note. CPICT= Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale, 4DSQ= Four-Dimensional Symptom Questionnaire.

** $p < .01$

Table 3 shows the relationship between interparental conflicts and psychological maladjustment among late adolescents. Results show that there were significant relationships between conflict properties and psychological maladjustment $r(118) = .80, p < .01$, threat and psychological maladjustment $r(118) = .70, p < .01$, self-blame and psychological maladjustment $r(118) = .74, p < .01$, triangulation and psychological maladjustment $r(118) = .12, p < .01$, somatization and psychological maladjustment $r(118) = .89, p < .01$, anxiety and psychological maladjustment $r(118) = .88, p < .01$, depression and psychological maladjustment $r(118) = .89, p < .01$, distress and psychological maladjustment $r(118) = .94, p < .01$, and overall interparental conflict and psychological maladjustment $r(118) = .80, p < .01$.

IV. DISCUSSION

Findings revealed that there was a significant relationship between perceived interparental conflicts and psychological maladjustment among late adolescents. The current study results were in line with previous studies. Buehler's (2002) study results showed that there was a significant positive relationship between interparental conflict and maladjustment. Research consistently demonstrates a significant link between perceived interparental conflict and psychological maladjustment among late adolescents. The presence of numerous, severe, and unresolved parent-parent conflicts provides an adolescent with a stressful family environment that can affect his or her emotional stability and safety. This insecurity may take place in different forms of maladjustment that can be internalizing, such as depression and anxiety, and externalizing, such as aggression and delinquency (Cummings and Davies, 2010). Moreover, the way adolescents view these conflicts such as being caught in the middle, or feeling that it is their faults may enhance these adverse consequences (Grych, Seid, & Fincham, 1992). The results of these studies point to the harmful nature of interparental conflict on adolescent development, and the necessity of studying and tackling the problem.

The Emotional Security Theory (EST) can offer an explanation of such a relationship and it suggests that due to interpersonal conflict, adolescents experience emotional insecurity and develop distress and maladaptive coping styles (Davies and Cummings, 1994). This lack of security has the potential to interfere with the emergence of healthy social and emotional abilities, their relations, and overall adaptation (Kinsfogel and Grych 2004; Parke et al., 2001; Steinberg, Davilla, and Fincham, 2006; Stocker and Richmond, 2007). Particularly, the negative influence of interparental conflict may be quite disastrous to the late adolescents, who are going through critical developmental activities, including building intimate relationships and developing trust and healthy attachment styles.

V. CONCLUSION

The study was guided by the fact that interparental conflicts in the life of late teens is linked to psychological maladjustment in the life of the late teens. The results showed that the neglected teens in their late teens are more exposed to developing maladjustments.

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