

Parental Acceptance-Rejection in relation to Fantasy and Aggression towards Parents of Adolescence

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of the study are - to see whether there is any relation between parental acceptance and rejection with Adolescence's Fantasy behavior and to see whether there is any relation between parental acceptance and rejection with Aggression towards Parents of Adolescence. The questionnaire package comprising of Adult Version of the Parental Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire for Father and Mother Version, Aggression Towards Parents and Fantasy Measure were administered on a sample of 960 Adolescents selected from different educational institutions of Dhaka City. The obtained data were analyzed by applying the Pearson Product moment correlation and t-test. Result of the correlation coefficient indicates that there is a significant correlation between PAR father version and Fantasy measure at 0.01 level. PAR father aggression/hostile and PAR father control have a significant positive relationship with fantasy at 0.05 level. There is a significant positive correlation among PAR father warmth/affection, PAR father rejection/indifference and aggression towards parents at 0.05 level. While fantasy measure and PAR father warmth/affection have a significant positive relationship at 0.01 level, and also there is a meaningful positive relationship between PAR father neglect/indifference and aggression towards parents at 0.01 level.

On the other hand, complete PAR mother version and aggression towards parents have significant positive correlation at 0.05 level; there is a meaningful positive relationship between PAR mother warmth/affection, aggression towards parents at 0.01 level and also between PAR mother/warmth affection and fantasy measure at 0.05 level. PAR mother control has positively significant with aggression towards parents at 0.05 level. Result also indicate that the significant differences were found between male and female of PAR father neglect/indifference and PAR father control at 0.05 level. Finally, there is a considerable

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Parental Acceptance-Rejection in relation to Fantasy and Aggression towards Parents of Adolescence

difference between male and female. On the other hand, Fantasy measure also is not valuable, and even here, there is a significant difference between male and female.

Keywords: *PAR, Fantasy, Aggression towards Parents and Adolescence*

Every person has experienced the warmth and affection provided by someone important to him/her, who is called the parent not necessarily, mother and father. This warmth and affection is a range from a great deal to none, where one end is named parental acceptance while the other one is termed rejection (Rohner, 2000). The term parent is defined in PAR Theory (Rohner et al., 2005) as any person who has a more or less long term caregiving responsibility for a child. Such person may be biological or adoptive parents, older siblings, grandparents, other relatives, or even non-kinspersons. Parental acceptance-rejection refers in PART theory to warmth dimension of parenting, with parental acceptance at the positive end of the continuum and parental rejection at the negative end. Parental acceptance refers to the love, affection, care, comfort, support, nurturance, and other such behaviors that parents can feel or express toward their children (Akhter and Nahar, 2014). Parental rejection refers to the absence or withdrawal of warmth, love, support, or affection by parents toward their children. Worldwide, parental acceptance-rejection can be expressed or perceived in any one or a combination of four major ways (Rohner, 1980, 1986). These include (i) warmth/affection (or its opposite, coldness/lack of affection), (ii) hostility/aggression, (iii) indifference/neglect, and (iv) undifferentiated rejection. Undifferentiated rejection refers to individuals' belief that their parents do (or did) not love, want, appreciate, or care about them, without necessarily experiencing any clear behavioral indicators that the parents are (or were) neglecting, unaffectionate, or aggressive toward them.

The research program was initiated almost five decades ago in response to claims by Western social scientists that parental love is essential to the healthy social and emotional development of children. After more than two thousand studies, many inspired directly by parental acceptance-rejection theory (PAR Theory) described here at least one conclusion is clear: Children everywhere need a specific form of positive response--acceptance--from parents and other attachment figures. When this need is not met satisfactorily, children everywhere regardless of variations in culture gender, age or, other such defining conditions tend to report different types of behavior and attitudes (Zinia, 2018). Additionally, youths and adults who perceive themselves to be rejected appear to be anxious and insecure, as well as to be disposed toward behavior problems and conduct disorders, to be depressed or have a sad affect, and to become involved in drug and alcohol abuse, among other issues.

In this study, researchers want to see about aggression towards parents and Fantasy behavior of adolescence. Before going to discuss our study topic, firstly let us know about aggression towards parents and fantasy behavior. Aggression can be a problem for children with both healthy development and those with psychosocial disturbances. When talking about adolescent aggression towards parents, one should first think about the complexities of human behavior within the family context: What are the limits for considering action as acceptable or not when interacting with close relatives, and especially when this interaction is between parents and children? There is a great difficulty in defining the term "adolescent aggression towards parents" or "parental abuse" based on another challenge, which is trying to distinguish between normative behaviors involving any kind of family conflict, rebellious attitude and defiant act, from those actions which entail an abusive behavior against parents.

Parental Acceptance-Rejection in relation to Fantasy and Aggression towards Parents of Adolescence

In the second case, the abuse leads to a situation of humiliation, harassment, and defiance of parental authority with the intention to the domain and hurt parents.

On the other hand, fantasy is a situation imagined by an individual that expresses particular desires or aims at the part of its creator. Fantasies sometimes involve highly unlikely situations, or they may be quite realistic (Erison, 1973). Fantasies can also be sexual. Another, the more basic meaning of fantasy is something which is not 'real' as in perceived explicitly by any of the senses but exists as an imagined situation of the object to subject. In everyday life, individuals often find their thoughts pursue a series of fantasies concerning things they wish they could do or wish they had done fantasies of control or sovereign choice daydreams. (Erikson1973).

Fantasy has beneficial elements - providing 'small regressions and compensatory wish fulfillment, which are recuperative in effect. Research by Deirdre Barrett (2002) reports that people differ radically in the vividness, as well as the frequency of fantasy and that those who have the most elaborately developed fantasy life are often the people who make productive use of their imaginations in art, literature, or by being exceptionally creative and innovative in more traditional professions. In contrast, when someone does not fulfill his or her expected requirement, then he or she going to dreaming of meeting his or her expected demand.

Research question:

- Is there any relation of Parental acceptance-rejection with Fantasy behavior and Aggression towards Parents?

The rationale of the Study:

“Parenting” means providing care, support, and love in a way that leads to a child’ include being responsible for the child physicals need. It means creating a nurturing environment of attention, encouragement, thus parenting involvement. It also means guiding the children. It also means giving guidance for the children. Therefore parenting involves meeting the Childs physical, mental, emotional, and social needs. (Zinia, 2018). According to interpersonal theory given by Sullivan (1953), the self-system that is a person’s perception of self is a significant component of personality, which develops through interaction with notable figures in the environment. In later life, people respond according to this self-system, whether people see the self as good or bad depends on their past perceptions (Hussain & Munnaf, 2012). So parental acceptance and rejection is a significant issue in our life. The scientific study of parental acceptance and rejection is critical because it can provide a positive contribution of the parents and to our country. But this type of study is inadequate in Bangladeshi cultural context. There is no enough and direct research evidence about acceptance-rejection with Fantasy behavior and Aggression towards Parents. So it is necessary to know how parental acceptance and rejection related to Fantasy and Aggression towards parents. The findings of this study will help to enrich our knowledge and will play an essential role for a better understanding of Family-child interaction. It may contribute to developing a theoretical model of parent-child relationship theory.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are –

- To see whether there is any relation between parental acceptance and rejection with Adolescence’s Fantasy behavior.

Parental Acceptance-Rejection in relation to Fantasy and Aggression towards Parents of Adolescence

- To see whether there is any relation between parental acceptance and rejection with Aggression towards Parents of Adolescence.

METHODS

Target population

The target population of this study was adolescence those who are going to school and college in Dhaka city.

Sample and Sampling technique

In this study, respondents were selected through simple random sampling technique from different educational institutions of Dhaka city.

Table-1: Participants

Types of Gender	Institution	English medium	Bangla medium	Madrasah medium	Total
Male		160	160	160	480
Female		160	160	160	480
Total		320	320	320	960

Measuring Instruments

The following questionnaires were used in this study:

1. Adult Version of the Parental Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire for Father and Mother Version Devolved by Rohner 2005 adapted in Bangla by Jasmine and Uddin (2007).
2. Aggression Towards Parents: 16 items adapted by Stewart (1985) and prepared by Mahadi, Nirobe & Naz. (2013)
3. Fantasy Measure: 17 items developed by Rosenfeld, Huesmann, Eron & Torney - Purta (1982) and prepared by Mahadi, & Naz. (2013)

In addition to these questionnaires, a personal information form (PIF) was used to collect information about age, gender, education, occupation, father's education and profession, mother's education and profession, the longevity of the intimate relationships and similar matters.

Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire:

The father and mother version scale was developed by Rohner, 1990, and adapted in Bangla by Jasmine and Uddin (2007). Cronbach alpha coefficients of these two scales were found 0.95, and 0.92, respectively.

Aggression Towards Parents:

This scale measures the frequency with which peers or friends shout, curse, or hit their parents; or are recipients of these behaviors from their parents. Questions are asked during a one-on-one interview. This scale was developed by Dolan, 1989, and adapted by Church, 1994. This scale was translated into Bangla by Mahadi, Noribe & Naz. (2013).

Fantasy Measure:

This scale measures the types and frequency of the fantasy behavior in which children engage. Respondents were asked how often they have pretended thought or daydreams that just "pop into their heads." This scale was developed by Rosenfeld, Huesmann, Eron &

Parental Acceptance-Rejection in relation to Fantasy and Aggression towards Parents of Adolescence

Torney-Purta, 1982 and adapted by Huesmann & Eron,1986. Reliability/Validity is internal consistency: .64. One-year stability: .41.This scale was translated into Bangla by Mahadi, & Naz. (2013).

Procedure

Standard data collection procedure was being followed to collect the data from the students of Dhaka City. They were informed about the purpose of the present study, and the necessary rapport was established before administering the questionnaires. The respondents were being instructed to read the items of the scales attentively and to respond rapidly in PAR questionnaire, not in the way they liked their father to be but how they perceived their father. As a similar way, the respondents were being instructed to read the items of the scales attentively and to respond rapidly in PAR questionnaire. They were being asked to give tick (✓) mark in the appropriate box. They were also requested not to omit any item in the questionnaire and told that there was no right or wrong answer. They were assured that the data would be kept confidential and would be used only for research purpose. After finishing the job, they were being thanked. All data were collected within three months.

RESULTS

Table 1, Correlation among Aggression towards parents, Fantasy measure and PAR Father/Mother

Variables	Aggression towards parents	Fantasy measure
Aggression towards parents	-	.086**
Fantasy measure	.086**	-
PAR Father Warmth/Affection	.012*	.007**
PAR Father Aggression/Hostile	-.020	.029*
PAR Father Neglect/Indifference	.007**	-.041
PAR Father Rejection/Undifference	.033*	-.020
PAR Father Control	-.045	.010*
PAR Father Total	-.014	.004**
PAR Mother Warmth/Affection	.007**	.044*
PAR Mother Aggression/Hostile	.056	-.002
PAR Mother Neglect/Indifference	-.006	-.002
PAR Mother Rejection/Undifference	-.013	-.042
PAR Mother Control	.036*	-.008
PAR Mother Total	.037*	-.012

** $P < 0.01$ * $P < 0.05$

From the above table 1, it was found that complete PAR father version and aggression towards parents are not significant, but there is a significant correlation between PAR father version and Fantasy measure at 0.01 level. Secondly, PAR father aggression/hostile and PAR father control have no significant relationship with aggression towards parents whereas, PAR father aggression/hostile and PAR father control have a significant positive relationship with fantasy at 0.05 level. Thirdly, there is a significant positive correlation among PAR father warmth/affection, PAR father rejection/indifference and aggression towards parents at 0.05 level. While fantasy measure and PAR father warmth/affection have a significant positive

Parental Acceptance-Rejection in relation to Fantasy and Aggression towards Parents of Adolescence

relationship at 0.01 level but no significant relationship with PAR father rejection/undifference. Lastly, there is a significant positive relationship between PAR father neglect/indifference and aggression towards parents at 0.01 level but no significant relationship with fantasy.

On the other hand, complete PAR mother version and aggression towards parents have significant positive correlation at 0.05 level though no important relationship with fantasy measure. Firstly, there is a meaningful positive relationship between PAR mother warmth/affection, aggression towards parents at 0.01 level and also between PAR mother/warmth affection, and fantasy measure at 0.05 level. Secondly, PAR mother control has positively significant with aggression towards parents at 0.05 level while PAR mother aggression/hostile, PAR mother neglect/indifference and PAR mother rejection/undifference have no significant correlation with aggression towards parents. In addition to there is no meaningful relationship among fantasy, PAR mother aggression/hostile, PAR mother neglect/indifference, PAR mother rejection/undifference, and PAR mother control.

Table 2, Mean difference between male and female according to Father version of Parental Acceptance-Rejection

Variables	Gender	M	SD	T	df	Sig
Parental Acceptance-Rejection Father Warmth/ Affection	Male	55.638	8.523	.847	932	.397
	Female	55.186	7.787			
Parental Acceptance-Rejection Father Aggression/ Hostile	Male	38.411	15.566	-.021	932	.984
	Female	38.428	8.024			
Parental Acceptance-Rejection Father Neglect/ Indifference	Male	37.164	7.051	2.056	932	.040
	Female	36.222	6.951			
Parental Acceptance Rejection Father Rejection/ Undifference	Male	26.764	5.158	1.358	932	.175
	Female	26.288	5.540			
Parental Acceptance Rejection Father Control	Male	35.722	8.006	2.051	932	.041
	Female	34.654	7.910			
Parental Acceptance-Rejection Father Total	Male	1.937	21.187	2.329	932	.020
	Female	1.907	17.232			

In the above Table 2 implies that mean values of two different groups comprising of male and female adolescents on PAR father and its subscales and also shows that male perceived more paternal rejection than female at 0.05 level. The significant differences were found between male and female of PAR father neglect/indifference and PAR father control at 0.05 level. But no significant differences were found between male and female of PAR Mother Warmth/Affection, PAR father and PAR father rejection/undifference.

Parental Acceptance-Rejection in relation to Fantasy and Aggression towards Parents of Adolescence

Table 3, Mean difference between male and female according to Mother version of Parental Acceptance-Rejection

Variables	Gender	M	SD	t	df	Sig
Parental Acceptance-Rejection Mother Warmth/Affection	Male	48.774	11.587	-.615	932	.539
	Female	49.249	11.903			
Parental Acceptance Rejection Mother Aggression/Hostile	Male	37.064	7.209	1.406	932	.160
	Female	36.400	7.216			
Parental Acceptance-Rejection Mother Neglect/Indifference	Male	32.233	8.262	-.524	932	.600
	Female	32.521	8.484			
Parental Acceptance Rejection Mother Rejection/Undifference	Male	26.829	5.142	.883	932	.378
	Female	26.529	5.217			
Parental Acceptance Rejection Mother Control	Male	35.287	7.965	.451	932	.652
	Female	35.050	8.085			
Parental Acceptance-Rejection Mother Total	Male	1.793	19.229	.649	932	.517
	Female	1.785	20.339			

Table 3 shows that there is no significant difference between a male of PAR mother warmth/affection, PAR mother aggression/hostile, PAR Mother neglect/indifference, PAR mother rejection/undifference, PAR mother control and PAR mother total.

Table 4, Mean difference between male and female according to Aggression towards parents, Fantasy measure

Variables	Gender	M	SD	t	df	Sig
Aggression towards parents	Male	6.868	3.366	1.515	932	.130
	Female	6.521	3.3622			
Fantasy measure	Male	35.545	6.650	.712	932	.477
	Female	35.250	6.024			

Table 4 indicates the mean values of two essential groups comprising of male and female adolescents on Aggression towards parents are not substantial, and there is a considerable difference between male and female. On the other hand, Fantasy measure also is not significant, and even here, there is a significant difference between male and female.

DISCUSSION

The objectives of the present study were to - (a) see whether there is any relation between parental acceptance and rejection with Adolescence's Fantasy behavior. (b) See whether there is any relation between parental acceptance and rejection with Aggression towards Parents of Adolescence. The present findings of this study are congruent with the existing of PAR Theory (Rohner, 2005). One of the sub-theory of PAR Theory assumes that the emotional need for a positive response from parents (or significant others) is a powerful motivation in children. When this need is not adequately met by attachment figures, children are predisposed emotionally and behaviorally to respond in specific ways. In particular, the PAR sub theory postulates that rejected children are likely to feel anxious and insecure. According to Rohner, & Khaleque (2002) parental rejection is expected to lead to other personality outcomes in children and adults including hostility, aggression, passive aggression, or problems with the management of hostility and aggression; dependence or defensive

Parental Acceptance-Rejection in relation to Fantasy and Aggression towards Parents of Adolescence

independence, depending on the form, frequency, and intensity of rejection; impaired self-esteem; impaired self-adequacy; emotional unresponsiveness; emotional instability; and cynical worldview. According to PAR Theory, rejected persons are likely to develop a cynical worldview characterized by the belief that people and the world, in general, are hostile, treacherous, threatening, or harmful in some other way. Cynical worldview, negative self-esteem, negative self-adequacy, and some of the different personality dispositions described above form the basis of mental representations or social cognitions of rejected people. Both maternal acceptance and paternal acceptance have a significant effect on mental health, which is relatively consistent with several other studies (Rohner, Khaleque, & Cournoyer, 2012). This parental acceptance-rejection has full impact on children mental health issues, such as depression and depressing effect; behavioral problems, including conduct disorders, externalizing behaviors, and delinquency; and, substance abuse (Rohner and Britner (2002). It is an important issue for parents to show a positive attitude towards their children and should concern about their positive parenting.

SUGGESTIONS

This study is conducted in fewer in Bangladesh, that's it has some limitations, but now it will be easy for a future researcher for doing this type of research. Again the study recommends further research on a more larger sample from different social-economic backgrounds and different areas of Bangladesh that will be a proper representative sample and with better methodological sophistication and analysis.

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Parental Acceptance-Rejection in relation to Fantasy and Aggression towards Parents of Adolescence

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Conflict of Interest

The author declared no conflict of interests.

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