

Difference in Perceived Childhood Parenting among Five Criminal Types

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The present research investigated differences in childhood memories of parental rejection, emotional warmth and overprotection among five criminal types, who were in prison as punishment by court of law for involving in first –degree murder, robbery, rape, drug trafficking and kidnapping. In this comparative groups design was utilized. Through purposive sampling 100 criminals, 20 each from five criminal types were selected from central Jail Karachi. The mean age of criminals was 34.65 years, and their SD was 7.40. Egna Minnen Beträffande Uppfostran (EMBU- Short Form) Urdu Version was administered. Results after application of ANOVA explains that there is insignificant difference among five types of criminals in their perceived father's and mother's childhood rejection as well as perceived father's overprotection. They also vary significantly on perceived childhood father's and mother's emotional warmth. Bonferroni indicates that those involved in first degree murder experienced less father's emotional warmth during their childhood as compared to those involved in drug trafficking. Further kidnapers experienced less maternal childhood emotional warmth as compared to those involved in drug trafficking. But mother's overprotection difference was not found among five types of criminals. Hence it is clear that parental rejection is the major variable perceived in similar way by all types of criminals but their perception differ on other parental child rearing patterns.

Keywords: Childhood, parents, rejection, emotional warmth, overprotection, criminal types

Throughout the world crimes are not only increasing but variety of different types of crimes are coming forward and adding to the already existing list of crimes. Hence due to increase in crime, the criminals imprisoned have also increased. Although different types of punishment are given to them according to their crime but incidence and intensity of criminal activities are still

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rising, therefore it is important to prevent criminal behaviours. In order to avert such activities there is a need to first understand reason of criminal behavior. Information regarding parenting together with understanding of thoughts, emotions, and behaviors of a person who is going to commit a crime, helps to take measures to prevent it.

From very beginning of criminal behaviour, it is clear that it is a planned illegal act that is forbidden by law, it is against societal norms and considered as immoral act in religion. In DSM-5 (American Psychiatric Association 2013), antisocial personality disorder is considered as criminal behavior that comes under cluster B Personality Disorders. There are innumerable factors that may be considered as risk factors of criminal behaviour. Although various theories in other countries came forward for explaining causes including inappropriate style of parenting as an important child rearing negative behavior leading towards criminal behavior, however in Pakistan there is dearth of researches focusing on parenting and criminal behavior. Focus is more on parental rejection and depression (Shafi & Bhutto, 2006 ; Liaqat, & Dawood, 2010); childhood parental rejection and depressive symptoms in adulthood (Munaf & Sardar, 2010); father's rejection in childhood and poor psychological adjustment in adulthood (Hussain & Munaf, 2011); parental rejection and negative relation with self esteem (Ansari & Qureshi, 2013); low psychological adjustment and high misconduct in adolescents receiving father rejection (Munaf , 2015); and perceived low parental support and relatively harsh, rejecting and negative parental view of juvenile delinquents than non-criminals (Rafail & Haque, 1999).

It is clear that none of the Pakistani research has focused on comparing difference in childhood memories of parenting of adult criminals imprisoned by court of law for involving in first –degree murder, robbery, rape, drug trafficking and kidnapping. Thus in the absence of such an intensive research, there arise a problem and research questions that “do, different types of criminals imprisoned as punishment by law for involving in first –degree murder, robbery, rape, drug trafficking and kidnapping, differ significantly

on their perceived childhood memories of parental rejection, emotional warmth and overprotection? If these criminals differ on their perceived childhood parenting, then what are the levels of significance of these differences? Consequently with these queries in consideration, literature was reviewed, hypothesis was formulated and implications of the study were predicted.

Looking at the historical perspective of parenting while reviewing literature many factors were found showing the significance of parental child rearing practices in healthy personality development. Erickson (1950), highlighted that at each psychosocial stage, child experience challenges and handling these successfully helps the human being to become a secure and successful member of society. With affection, love, warmth, support and guidance parents help the child to resolve the conflict and face challenges. This positively affect the individual and if parental behaviour is rejecting , neglecting, hostile or permissive then it can have negative influence on development of personality.

It has been mentioned that parental rejection, hostile, punitive, shaming and over controlling are related to different types of aggression in children (Sears, Whiting, Nowlis & Sears, 1953; Becker, 1964; Littman, 1977; Jacobson, Lindstrom, Von Knorring, Perris, & Perris, 1980; Perris, Eisemann, Ericsson, Von Knorring, & Perris, 1983; as in Perris, Arrindell, & Eisemann, 1994, p.5).

Like rejection, maternal overprotection is also considered as unhealthy rearing style that interferes with independence of a child (Stendler, 1954, as in Perris, Arrindell & Eisemann, 1994, p.5). Similarly, Perris, Maj, Perris and Eisemann (1985) consider, lack of emotional warmth as another parental rearing style that contribute in different psychological conditions.

Child rearing factors are one of the most important early predictors of adult antisocial and criminal behaviors (Farrington, 2000). Further it was documented that cold parental attitude can be

considered as an important early risk factor for antisocial behavior (Farrington, 2005).

Moreover Richters (2010) studied importance of parenting style in temperament of a child. Child temperament is linked with internalizing and externalizing problems mainly in presence of disadvantaged parental styles.

From above literature review it is clear that inappropriate parental style not only contribute in development of early and late psychopathology but also conduct disorder in childhood and its consequences can be seen as criminal behaviour in adulthood. Like other countries, criminal behaviour in Pakistan can also be seen in different types, therefore it is a need of time to conduct researches with reference to parenting and different types of criminal behaviour in adulthood.

Purpose of the Study

As in Pakistan due to complete non availability of researches taking into consideration real criminals in prison after they were found guilty by law for involving in any one type of five different types of crimes, therefore it was extremely vital to investigate on these lines. Thus the purpose of the present study was to investigate difference in perceived childhood parental rejection, emotional warmth and overprotection among prisoners of central jail of city of Karachi, Pakistan, who were involved in first degree murder, robbery, rape, drug trafficking and kidnapping. The current work is an original and unique research as it includes five types of criminals involved in particular type of crime.

The results of this study would help clinical psychologist, counsellors and other mental health professionals to give diagnosis; to provide psychotherapy, counselling, guidance and treatment (on the lines of intensity with which they have received childhood parental rejection, emotional warmth and overprotection) to psychiatric patients in general and criminals in

particular having emotional problems before/after they were given sentence for their criminal behaviour.

Further on lines of results of this research, policy makers can initiate making preventive measures for non occurrence of criminal behaviour and initiate awareness program for healthy parental child rearing behaviours. In short this work would be a master piece in researches related to criminal behaviour.

Research Hypothesis

There would be difference in perceived childhood father's and mother's rejection, emotional warmth and overprotection among criminals involved in first degree murder, robbery, rape, drug trafficking and kidnapping.

Method

Participants

Participants consist of 100 male prisoners, 20 each from five criminal types, who were sentenced in prison by law for committing crime. Their mean age was 34.65 and SD= 7.40. Their minimum educational qualification was primary. About marital status 67% criminals were married and 33% were unmarried while 59% belonged to joint family system and 41% belonged to Nuclear family setup.

Inclusion Criteria

Inclusion criteria for criminals were:

- Imprisoned for punishment by law for involving in first degree murder/ robbery/ rape/ drug trafficking/ kidnapping and minimum of 2 years have passed from fixed length of sentence given by court.
- Having age between 18-45 years.
- Minimum educational qualification not less than primary.

- Never registered at any psychiatric clinic/ hospital as patient with any type of major psychiatric disorder before commitment of crime.

Exclusion Criteria

Exclusion criteria for criminals were:

- Imprisoned for punishment by law for involving in crime other than first degree murder/ robbery/ rape/ drug trafficking /kidnapping.
- Imprisoned for punishment by law for involving in crime of first degree murder/ robbery/ rape/ drug trafficking /kidnapping, but less than 2 years have passed.
- Having age less than 18 and more than 45 years.
- Minimum educational qualification less than primary.
- Registered at any psychiatric clinic/ hospital as patient with any type of major psychiatric disorder before commitment of crime.

Measures

Egna Minnen Beträffande Uppfostran Scale (EMBU- Short Form) Urdu Version. The short version of EMBU (Arrindell et al., 1999) is a condensed form of previous 81 item long version containing three main scales of rejection, emotional warmth and overprotection. (Perris, Jacobson, Lindström, Von Knorring & Perris, 1980). The short form consists of 23 items and it measures childhood memories of upbringing by parents on three types of parenting, i.e. parental rejection, emotional warmth and over protection. A person is requested to mark on option out of four on each statement. EMBU short form is considered as highly reliable and valid measure to assess perceived childhood parenting. In current study its Urdu version was utilized in order to get it easily understood by criminals. Its Cronbach's alpha was .70, .71 and .53 for parental rejection, emotional warmth and over protection respectively.

Procedure

In first phase of the study Urdu Translation of EMBU- Short Form was done, with the help of six psychologists who were fluent in languages of Urdu and English and had clinical and research experience of Institute recognized by Higher Educational Commission, Pakistan. One professional translator was also part of the team. Following procedure of forward translation, merging, back translation and pilot study the EMBU –Urdu translated short version was developed.

In the second phase of the study data was collected from Central Prison Karachi, after taking consent from the concerned authorities. Prisoners were approached as per schedule with the help of a person responsible for that department of the Central Jail Karachi. Following ethics of the research they were given information regarding the purpose of the study and were requested to give their consent for data collection. They were also assured that privacy of the data would be maintained although for research purpose collective data would be utilized. Upon their consent personal information form and Urdu version of EMBU short form was administered. Same procedure was followed for all five groups of criminals. After scoring ANOVA and Bonferroni method were applied for statistical interpretation of scores.

Description of Various Variables under Study*Perceived childhood parental rejection*

In present research it refers to childhood memories of mother and father rearing/ upbringing with; withdrawal or absence of significant warmth, affection, love, support, sympathy or interest and provided negative response, neglect, ignorance and uncaring behaviour.

Perceived childhood parental emotional warmth

In present research it refers to childhood memories of mother and father rearing / upbringing with; support, love, affection, praise, care, interest, sympathy, help and guidance.

Perceived childhood parental over protection

In present research it refers to childhood memories of mother and father rearing/ upbringing with; extreme care, showing extra concern and giving over attention to trivial matters of the children, when it is not required. It also includes needlessly, indulging in matters of children.

First degree murder

First degree murder is a crime in which a murderer kills other person for the reason best known to himself/herself, with planning, and identify that his/her act is unsafe and can results in death of a victim. In current study the culprit of first degree murder has been given punishment by court of Law.

Robbery

Robbery is a criminal act in which a person steals or takes away things forcefully by another person. It can be property or any other thing under the control of a victim. In current study the culprit of robbery has been given punishment by court of Law.

Rape

Rape here refers to as criminal act in which sexual intercourse is done by male person without permission of opposite sex or with forceful consent through threatening her. In current study the culprit of rape has been given punishment by court of Law.

Drug Trafficking

Drug Trafficking is a crime that involve illegal selling of any type of hideous drug in same country or in other country without license. In current study the culprit of drug trafficking has been given punishment by court of Law.

Kidnapping

Kidnapping of a person here refers to as a crime in which a person/people forcefully keep in custody, take(s) away another person without his/ her permission, to another place inside or outside Pakistan. A child can also be kidnapped, taken away from

his/her parents or legal guardian. Kidnapping can be for the sake of ransom, property, revenge or any other reason. In current study the culprit of kidnapping has been given punishment by court of Law.

Results

In table 1 descriptive statistics as well as results of one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) are mentioned indicating differences in the level of childhood parental rejection, emotional warmth and over protection among five categories of criminals. Further Table 2 shows Post Hoc analyses using Bonferroni method to see detail about these differences.

Table 1

Descriptive Statistics and ANOVA for Childhood Father's and Mother's Rejection, Emotional Warmth and Overprotection of Five Types of Criminals (N=100)

Variables	Crime Type	M	SD	F	P
FRJ	FDM	18.15	5.46	1.58	.18
	RB	19.45	4.77		
	RP	16.20	6.34		
	DT	15.45	7.04		
	KP	18.70	6.24		
MRJ	FDM	13.20	2.85	1.56	.18
	RB	15.20	4.60		
	RP	13.60	5.30		
	DT	12.15	4.33		
	KP	12.75	2.86		

Cont...

Variables	Crime Type	M	SD	F	P
FEW	FDM	10.55	4.69	3.05*	.02
	RB	11.45	3.76		
	RP	12.70	4.96		
	DT	15.35	5.79		
	KP	10.90	5.41		
MEW	FDM	13.10	4.44	3.40*	.01
	RB	13.40	3.34		
	RP	13.60	4.66		
	DT	17.05	4.60		
	KP	12.50	4.53		
F OP	FDM	20.30	1.80	.74	.56
	RB	18.80	2.68		
	RP	20.35	4.23		
	DT	20.20	4.13		
	KP	20.25	3.68		
M OP	FDM	17.90	3.66	2.92*	.02
	RB	20.05	3.48		
	RP	21.15	4.23		
	DT	20.35	4.58		
	KP	17.65	3.89		

Note: FR=Father's Rejection, MR= Mother's Rejection, FEW= Father's Emotional Warmth, MEM= Mother's Emotional Warmth, FOP=Father's Over Protection, MO P= Mother's Over Protection, FDM= First Degree Murder, RB = Robbery, RP = Rape, DT = Drug Trafficking, KD= Kidnapping.

N = 100, N FDM=20, N RB= 20, N RP= 20, N DT= 20, N KP= 20

* Significant at the 0.05 level.

It is clear from table 1, that there is insignificant difference among five types of criminals in their perceived father's rejection $F(4, 95) = 1.58, p > .05$, and Mother's rejection $F(4, 95) = 1.56, p > .05$.

Table 1, further shows that there is significant difference among five types of criminals on perceived childhood father's and mother's emotional warmth $F(4, 95) = 3.05, p < .05$ & $F(4, 95) = 3.40, p < .05$ respectively.

It is also clear that there is insignificant difference among five types of criminals $F(4, 95) = .74, p > .05$ on perceived childhood father's over protection, however significant difference among five types of criminals on perceived childhood mother's over protection is obvious $F(4, 95) = 2.92, p < .05$

Table 2 shows results, after application of Bonferroni method, for comparison of five types of criminals with each other on their perceived childhood father's and mother's emotional warmth and over protection by mother. Bonferroni method was applied only when ANOVA showed significant difference.

Table 2

Bonferroni Method for Comparing Five Types of Criminal on their Perceived Childhood Father's and Mother's Emotional Warmth and Mother's Overprotection

Variables	Crime Types(I)	Crime Types(J)	MD(I-J)	p	
FEW	FDM	RB	-.90	1.00	
		RP	-2.15	1.00	
		DT	-4.80*	.03	
		KP	-.35	1.00	
	RB	RP	-1.25	1.00	
		DT	-3.90	.15	
		KP	.55	1.00	
	RP	DT	-2.65	.95	
		KP	1.80	1.00	
	MEW	FDM	DT	4.45	.05
			RB	-.30	1.00
			RP	-.50	1.00
DT			-3.95	.05	
RB		KP	.60	1.00	
		RP	-.20	1.00	
		DT	-3.65	.09	
RP		KP	.90	1.00	
		DT	-3.45	.13	
M OP		FDM	KP	1.10	1.00
			DT	4.55*	.01
			RB	-2.15	.98
	RP		-3.25	.13	
	RB	DT	-2.45	.60	
		KP	.25	1.00	
		DT	2.70	.38	
	RP	DT	.80	1.00	
		KP	3.50	.07	
		KP	2.40	.65	

Note: FEW= Father's Emotional Warmth, MEM= Mother's Emotional Warmth, MO P= Mother's Over Protection, FDM=First Degree Murder, RB= Robbery, RP= Rape, DT= Drug Trafficking, KD= Kidnapping
 N=100, N FDM=20, N RB=20, N RP=20, N DT=20, N KP=20.

* Significant at the 0.05 level

It is apparent from the table 2, that there is significant difference in perceived father's emotional warmth between those criminals involved in murder and drug trafficking (MD= -4.80, $p < .05$). Those involved in murder perceived their fathers as providing less emotional warmth to them during their childhood as compared to those involved in drug trafficking.

Significant difference was also noted in perceived mother's emotional warmth between those criminals involved in drug trafficking and Kidnapping (MD=, 4.55, $p < .05$), indicating that kidnapers perceived less childhood emotional warmth as compared to those involved in drug trafficking.

Discussion

It is clear from table 1, that there is insignificant difference among five types of criminals in their perceived childhood father's and mother's rejection. For childhood mother's overprotection there was significant difference among criminals when ANOVA was applied but when it was calculated with more finer method of Bonferroni , it was found that insignificant difference exists between criminals on variable of mother's overprotection also, however on emotional warmth remarkable findings were noted . It is obvious that those who were involved in murder, robbery, rape, drug trafficking and kidnapping had experienced difference in childhood parental emotional warmth. Hence the hypothesis that, there would be difference in perceived childhood father's and mother's rejection, emotional warmth and overprotection among criminals involved in first degree murder, robbery, rape, drug trafficking and kidnapping , was partially proved .

It is obvious from results that criminals in category type of first degree murder, robbery, rape, drug trafficking and kidnapping had experienced somewhat similar childhood parental rejection and over protection. They perceive that they were rejected and protected in their childhood by their parents in identical way. Work of Mak (1994) also indicates that parental perceived neglect and overprotection are positively associated with delinquency. Raine,

Brennan, and Mednick (1997) emphasized significance of early maternal rejection in violence in adulthood. Yahav (2007) found that an external i.e. delinquency and internal symptom that includes regressive behaviour, somatic symptoms, anxiety and depression are associated with perceived negative parenting. Gao, Raine, Chan, Venables and Mednick (2010), study on early paternal and maternal relationship clearly shows that physical abuse in childhood, poor maternal care and low overprotection by father were related with adult psychopathy.

In literature, a research also demonstrates some contradictory findings and do not go well with present insignificant results with reference to childhood rejection. One of the researches emphasized the differences among different kind of crime on the variable of maternal rejection. A study by Raine, Brennan and Mednick (1997) further demonstrated that biological factors and maternal rejection interaction follows violent serious type of crimes with early onset whereas; this interaction was not followed by non violent late onset crimes.

Insignificant difference of parental rejection among five type of criminals in the current study additionally designates presence of some other variable together with parental rejection that motivates a person to indulge in one particular crime and not to engage in other type of crime. Research on differences between various kinds of criminals, supports presence of factors other than parental rejection only. It is found that sex offenders and other kinds of violent criminals differ significantly on variables of total and performance IQ (Guay, Ouimet, & Proulx, 2005).

Hence one can say that apart from rejecting and overprotecting parents, other parental variable together with personality pattern might have played important role in the present study that have contributed significantly in bringing the results of no difference in childhood parental rejection and overprotection among five categories of criminals. Literature indicates importance of lack of empathy in criminals. Mahmut, Homewood and Stevenson (2008) documents that criminal psychopaths lack

empathetic relationships. Fisher, Beech and Browne (1999) also document that child molesters together with few psychological problems also lack victim empathy. Therefore there is likelihood that poor empathetic relationships with others can be due to rejection and lack of appropriate protection provided to them.

Difference in emotional warmth provided to criminals in their childhood might have made them vulnerable for commitment of particular type of crime. As documented in Hoeve et al (2009) that Loeber (1996) has divided delinquency into two types. First is overt delinquency and second is covert. First one includes violent crimes for example, murder, rape, frightening, with or without a weapon, whereas Covert criminal behaviors are considered as non-violent acts for example theft; fire setting, destruction and illegal drugs selling. Hoeve et al (2009) further inscribes that overt violent and other severe crimes have its beginning in early delinquency for example Moffitt and Caspi (2001), consider that criminal act can be related with childhood unhealthy family attitudes whereas they consider covert delinquency, as relatively more often found in adolescent having , moderately healthy backgrounds .

The work of Moffitt and Caspi (2001) supports the present research results that clearly show that in childhood father's emotional warmth was less provided to criminals of first degree murder that is considered as overt crime than criminals of drug trafficking (covert crime) who were provided with significantly more emotional warmth by their fathers. Similarly while considering emotional warmth of mothers', findings clearly show that it was less provided to criminals of kidnapping that is considered as overt crime than criminals of drug trafficking (covert crime) who were also provided with relatively more emotional warmth by their mothers. Therefore association can be made that those involved in overt crime have childhood memories of their upbringing with less parental warmth as compared to those involved in covert crime.

Hence it is clear from literature as well as from the present research findings that parental childhood rearing behaviour has been found to be extremely important in the psychological development of children and adults. Its influence can be observable immediately and its impact can also be seen in adulthood in different types of criminals.

Conclusion

In this comparative groups design, difference in memories of parental rejection, overprotection and emotional warmth of prisoners who were involved in first degree murder, robbery, rape, drug trafficking and kidnapping was assessed through EMBU-short Urdu translated version. It was found that parental childhood rejection non-significantly differs among five types of criminals, except perceived parental emotional warmth. Criminals with first degree murder remember relatively less father's emotional warmth provided to them in their childhood than those involved in drug trafficking. More over kidnappers remember relatively less maternal childhood emotional warmth than those involved in drug trafficking.

Limitations of the Study

Like many other researches the present research although highly significant has certain limitations also. The sample size of five types of criminals was very limited. Further collection of data was limited to only five categories of criminals and excluded variety of other types of criminals. Hence it would have been much better if maximum number of criminal types with much larger sample size would have been studied. This would have made possible to generalize the results with high level of confidence and reliability.

Further, data as per research proposal was collected only from one central jail of province of Sindh and not from other jails, therefore number of criminal participants was also kept limited. Despite of it due to unavoidable circumstances in city of Karachi, Pakistan during the period of collection of data, it took longer duration than what was expected.

Even though to overcome these limitations is a very difficult task, but it is not impossible, therefore if replication of this research is ever planned then future researcher may try to manage these complexities at initial level only.

Recommendations

There is also a need to collect data from female adult criminals. This would help to make gender comparison of impact of perceived childhood parental rejection, overprotection and emotional warmth.

It is important to study other variables also such as age, education, marital status and birth order too, that can play vital role together with childhood parental rejection and other parental adopted behaviour as risk factors in adult criminal behaviour.

Implications of the Findings

Implications of the research are very clear and fruitful. It gives more awareness concerning importance of child rearing behaviour. For healthy personality development and for positive child's behaviour, parents should avoid rejection, neglecting and ignoring their children when it is not required as it is similarly found in all types of criminals. They should encourage emotional warmth, affection, care and proper protection. This can promote constructive growth of childhood behavior and discourage conduct problem and juvenile delinquency at younger age and adult delinquency and different types of antisocial behaviour in adulthood.

The results of this study would help clinical psychologists, counsellors and other mental health professionals in their diagnosis; psychotherapy, counselling, guidance and treatment on lines of intensity of memories of childhood parental rejection, overprotection and emotional warmth.

Current findings are also of high significance for prevention of criminal behaviour. Awareness programs may be implemented at media level as well as at child care clinics/Institutes in Pakistan so that parents can better understand importance of healthy child rearing practices.

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