

## **Difference in Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Personality Organization in Children of Hyderabad**

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### **Abstract**

The present study attempts to examine the differences in perceived parental acceptance-rejection and personality organization in middle and lower middle class children of Hyderabad. The sample included 144 children of Hyderabad. The Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire and Personality Assessment Questionnaire were used. The data was collected through purposive random sampling technique. The results revealed that there is non-significant mean difference in

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perception of middle class children and lower middle class children towards parental acceptance –rejection for father and mother and there is significant mean difference in personality organization. The study has implications based on observation that children perceive their parents in the same way in both middle and lower middle socio-economic class.

It is a fact that, authoritative parenting style is helpful for child's social, moral, intellectual and emotional growth. There are also cultural differences in parenting style and the personality assessment of child. Authoritarian parenting is accepted for Asian ethnic families that are linked to positive social outcomes and the academic success of their children. Each person experiences some degree of warmth and affection from that person with whom they grow up (Rohner & Rohner, 1981). Rohner's view is that the child experiences warmth and affection or its withdrawal on continuum as great deal to virtually none, and that continuum is known as the warmth dimension Warmth dimension is on one hand marked by acceptance of parents and on the other hand marked by rejection of parents.

### **Parental Acceptance**

It refers to the affection, warmth and love of parents towards their children. It has two forms of expression, i-e Physical expression and Verbal expression. Physical expression of warmth includes the behavior of parents just as hugging, fondling, caressing, approving, kissing, smiling, or support. Verbal expression of warmth includes the behavior of parents as praising, complimenting, telling stories to the child, singing songs or saying good or nice things to child. These behaviors are mostly found in those children who belong to accepting families, while in changes with the time in the child they may get angry and impatient or rejected. Some children never know the satisfaction or parental affection in their families; it means the child's behavior interrelated with the parent's style of parenting.

## **Parental Rejection**

It refers to withdrawal of affection, love or warmth by the child towards their parents. It includes three major forms (Rohner & Rohner, 1975).

1. Hostility and aggression
2. Indifference and neglect
3. Undifferentiated rejection

Hostility and indifference are related to internal psychological feelings of a child/ person. Hostility is an internal feeling of anger, resentment or malice of parents towards the child. Indifference is not caring about or a lack of concern of parents towards child. Aggression and neglect are internal states of behavior manifestation of parents. Aggression has two forms, physical and verbal. A parent shows physical aggression towards their child by means of hitting, biting, pushing, shaking, scratching, scalding and burning, while the verbal aggression includes cursing, sarcasm, denigrating, saying thoughtless, unkind, and cruel words to their child. According to PAR theory, when the parents fail to attend the needs of child such as physical, medical, educational also the child's wishes and interests, then they experience neglect. This means neglect is physical and psychological non availability of parents. Physical non availability of parents means the mother and father are not physically present with them, while the psychological non availability is that interacting or responding to child with lack of attention. The subjective experience or feelings of being unloved, unwanted, or rejected without any reason in children are called undifferentiated rejection.

Different rejection is experienced behaviorally as in the form of aggression or neglect. It is observed that in Hyderabad, these four parenting styles are found in different areas in different socioeconomic classes. In parenting styles, there is difference due to some factors like, culture, personality, family size, parental background, socioeconomic status, educational level, and religion.

Generally, it is associated with different parenting styles and several environmental factors.

Empirical evidence found by Michaels, Larry and Gary (1983), Serot and Teevan, , (1961), Zucker and Barron (1971) argued that parental care; demands or punishments were not seen in by parent and children in the same way. Parents sometimes inferences on their own perceived parenting towards their child, while the children also see and perceive parents in their own way, they may feel more affect or less as they perceive behavior itself actually (Ausubel et al., 1954, Goldin, 1969, Heilbrun, 1973, Robkin, 1965). The PAR theory emphasizes more on children's subjective feeling or experience of hostility, warmth or indifference that is the phenomenological approach or orientation. This orientation helps across cultural or ethnic boundaries in which some abused or neglected children do not feel rejected (Herzberger et al, 1981). While this approach on the objective side also help for interpreting the child's behavior in different socio cultural systems.

Parenting style is found to be different in different cultures. In America the mother praises her child and she shows happiness towards her child. In India parents are reluctant to praise their children in front of others because of their religion and ideological reasons. In Bengal the mother by peeling an orange and removing the seeds, expresses her approval towards her child.

There are forms of socio cultural context regarding parental acceptance. Social comparison theorists argue that mostly children do not feel rejected by parents in communities where all other children also percieve as being rejected as compared to the same community where the child alone faces rejection. In this case, feeling of being rejected becomes more painful for the child.

In the 1930s about 800 students were analysed on parental acceptance and rejection, especially their consequences. Among them many students were reviewed by Rohner and Rohner, (1975) )indicating consequences for personality development and



personality personality functioning. Parent's behavior affects the personality of child. If an abusive parent has conflicts with the other and if both are socially isolated (Mavis & Parke,), these parents blame their children as a problem without focusing on the seriousness of the solution of the problem. An abusive mother most of the time shows negative behavior towards her child, such as threading commands, criticism or physical expression of biting, killing, etc.

A study conducted by Matejcek and Kadubcova (1983), on 228 Elementary School children in South Bohemia Czechoslovakia, shows that Czech children's score on parental warmth and affection subscale was very high and on parental hostility, neglect and undifferentiated rejection, their scores were very low. They also had low score on unfavorable personality traits. Parenting styles play a very important role in the development of a child and the parenting style effects a child's personality. Children who live in different environments may also shows similarities in their personality with other children. Parenting styles can make a child happy, confident, and capable to do things right.

A study for examining relationships between perceived parental acceptance-rejection and juvenile delinquency sources shows that non-criminal adolescents perceive their father and mother as less aggressive, less neglecting, less rejecting as compared to criminal adolescents, further; the parental acceptance rejection score is positively associated with juvenile delinquency (Rafail & Haque, 1999).

A study for assessing differences in parental acceptance-rejection and personality organization among status offenders and home children shows that home children perceived less parental neglect as compared to status offenders. Further there is negative correlation in personality organization of home children and status offender children (Solangi, 2012).

In a study by Arzeen, Hassan and Riaz (2012) conducted on

parental acceptance-rejection in emotionally empathic and non-empathic adolescents of Government Private and semi government schools of Wah Cantt; the results show that non-empathic adolescents significantly differ from empathic adolescents on the dimension of parental and maternal warmth on PARQ. Further, emotionally empathic adolescents perceive their father and mother as less aggressive, less neglecting, and less rejecting as compare to non empathic adolescents.

A study for examining the child abuse in Pakistani families with parental acceptance rejection and demographic variables on boys and girls shows that socioeconomic status as well as father's education are non-significant determinants of child abuse. While mothers education and family size variable are significant determinants of child abuse. Further severely abused children are perceived as more rejecting towards their parents as compared to mildly abused children (Malik, 2012).

A study for assessing perceived childhood paternal acceptance rejection among adults; shows that there is a significant difference in perceived paternal acceptance-rejection in clinical and non-clinical subjects and there is also significant difference in gender in PARQ (Hussain, Alvi, Zeeshan, & Nadeem, 2013).

A study for assessing parental acceptance rejection and parental authoritarianism among abused children in Pakistan shows that in Pakistani context the father possesses vital aspects of typical high authoritarian attitude towards the children and highly educated father are less authoritarian. While on the basis of different socioeconomic status fathers were equally authoritarian; abused children perceived their parents as more rejecting while severely abused children perceived their parents highly rejecting (Malik, 2012).

The main purpose of the present study was to analyze the parental acceptance and rejection for fathers and mothers in two

socio-economic classes' i.e., middle class children and lower middle class children in Hyderabad and find out the difference in personality organization among them. For this the following hypotheses were formulated:

There would be non-significant difference in PARQ for fathers among middle class children and lower middle class children.

There would be a significant difference in PARQ for mothers among middle class children and lower middle class children.

There would be a significant mean difference in PAQ among middle class children and lower middle class children.

## **Method**

### **Sample**

The sample (N=144) comprised of 72 middle class children and 72 lower middle class children. All respondents belonged to Qasimabad Hyderabad. The age range of the respondents was 11 to 13 years. All respondents were educated and were studying in class 6th, 7th and 8th in schools. Ten schools (five Government schools and five non-government Schools) were selected from Hyderabad randomly. The data was collected by using purposive sampling method.

### **Measures**

#### **Parental Acceptance Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ)**

Parental Acceptance Rejection Questionnaire developed by Rohner (1984) measures the personality traits of a child and reveals parental acceptance rejection towards the child.

It includes two subscales; PARQ for father and PARQ for mother.

PARQ consists of the following subscales (Rohner & Rohner, 1975):

1. **Warmth/affection:** It is the dimension of parental-acceptance which shows the love and affection of parents for their child.
2. **Hostility / aggression:** It is the emotional reaction internally that is directed towards self or a person including anger/aggression or any act that causes hurt physically or psychological to others.
3. **Rejection:** It is child's feeling of being unloved, uncared for, and unappreciated by parents.
4. **Indifference /neglect:** It is the unavailability of parents physically as well as psychologically in a sense that parents do not give attention to their children.
5. **Control:** It is the extent to which the parents limits or impose restrictions or family rules on their children.

It consists of 60 items each of PARQ for the mother and for the father. PARQ is a 4-point Likert type scale having response categories of "Almost always true" (scored as 4) and "Almost never true" (scored as 1). The range of scores is 60-240; meaning that if a child obtains high scores then that child perceives his parents as rejecting.

Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire, Urdu version (Haque, 1981) was used for the present research study. It is a psychometrically adequate measure of good reliability; ranging from .72 to .90 (Haque, 1987). Its reliability was checked through spilt-half reliability method which shows that the scale is highly reliable ( $r=0.9$ ).

### **Personal Assessment Questionnaire (PAQ)**

The personal assessment questionnaire, a self report Questionnaire developed by Rohner (1990) was used on respondents to respond according to their perception that how they



perceive their own self and about their behavioral disposition. The child PAQ asks children between 11 to 13 years children to reflect on themselves with respect to the seven behavior dispositions.

It included following subscales (Rohner, 1975):

1. **Hostility / aggression:** It is the emotional reaction internally that is directed to oneself or a person such as anger/aggression or any act that causes hurt physically or psychologically to others.
2. **Dependence:** It is the emotional reliance such as approval, support, guidance, and comfort for a person.
3. **Negative self-esteem:** It is about the feeling of one's own self such as disappointment, unworthiness, disrespect, dislike and refusal.
4. **Negative self-adequacy:** It is about feeling that he one is unable to deal / cope with problems; he is a failure, incapable of success and incompetent.
5. **Emotional unresponsiveness:** It is the disability of a person to express their emotions freely freely/ openly of their emotions; non-spontaneity and inability to respond to others.
6. **Emotional instability:** It is about the inconstancy or unsteadiness of mood and disability to withstand from surrounding stresses or difficulties.
7. **Negative world view:** It is the view about world/ global or about overall life of a person negatively such as the world/universe is bad, hostile, insecure unpleasant etc.

PAQ consists of 63 items. It is a 4-point Likert type scale having response categories of "Always", "Sometimes", "Very few", "Never", "it's true for me" type categories having score as (score=1 on Always, score=2 on Sometimes, score=3 on Very few, score=4 on Never); whereas on category of "Not True for me" having reverse score as score=4 on Always, score=3 on Sometimes, score=2 on Very few, score=1 on Never). The more high the score the higher the level of maladjustment in children . Its reliability was

checked through split-half reliability method which shows that the scale is highly reliable ( $r=0.8$ ).

### **Personal Information Questionnaire (PIQ)**

The Personal information Questionnaire was also administered on the sample to collect the background characteristics of the respondent's age, class, socio-economic status, father education, mother education, mother occupation, father occupation, the number of siblings, joint family system or nuclear family system etc.

### **Procedure**

The data was selected through purposive sampling method. Data collected from five Government and five Private Schools of Qasimabad Hyderabad. There were 144 respondents. All respondents knew the Urdu language and were able to read Urdu and English books. Three Questionnaires (A, B, C, as above mention) were used to collect data from each respondent. Questionnaires were administered and also instructions were given to the respondents to freely ask any question about any of the statements given in the questionnaires, and four columns are given in front of each statement, please select the column which explains about you more appropriately and that there is no right or wrong answer for any statement. Researcher gave the questionnaire to the teachers and told them about the questionnaire and its methodology to collect responses. Then the Questionnaires were administered with the help of teachers of those schools because teachers helped the children in understanding the statement and meaning of the statement in the questionnaire and the children freely asked questions from their teachers about any difficulty in statement reading and comprehension of questionnaire as compared to the researcher. In that way, the respondents easily give their responses.

## **Results**

The results as shown in table 1, 2 and 3, of present study revealed that lower middle class children have higher scored on warmth / affection, Hostility / aggression on PARQ for the father than the middle class children. The middle class children score more on indifference / neglect, rejection, control, on PARQ for father than lower middle class children. From table 1, the overall results of PARQ for fathers show that there is no significant difference in middle class children and lower middle class children. The lower middle class children show more on hostility/ aggression on PARQ for mother. The score of middle class children show more on indifference / neglect, control on PARQ for mother on warmth/ affection and rejection of PARQ, for mother. There are similar scores for both middle class children and lower middle class children.

From table 1, the overall results of PARQ for mothers show that there is no significant difference in middle class children and lower middle class children. The lower middle class children score more on hostility / aggression, negative self-esteem, emotional unresponsiveness, emotional instability, negative world view, and negative self-adequacy of PAQ. The scores of middle class children are more on only dependency subscales of PAQ.

From table 2, the overall results of PAQ show that lower middle class children have higher score on all PAQ subscales except dependency and the middle class shows low scores, meaning there are differences in personality assessment in the children of Hyderabad.

**Table 1**

*Mean, SD, and t-value of Lower middle Class (N=72) and Middle Class Children (n=72) on Subscales of PARQ Father and PARQ Mother*

Subscales	Lower Middle class		Middle class		
	M	SD	M	SD	T
<b>PARQ for Father</b>					
Warmth/affection	50.0	49.87	47.0	47.66	0.450
Hostility/aggression	31.82	32.36	30.72	31.40	7.015
Rejection	38.01	38.05	40.82	44.73	0.645
Indifference/neglect	18.51	18.98	19.31	14.87	0.08
Control	34.5	34.56	35.0	35.11	4.76
Total PARQ	172.22	80.72	173.4	87.81	0.038*
<b>PARQ for Mother</b>					
Warmth/affection	48.4	6.95	48.8	48.75	0.89
Hostility/aggression	33.5	31.24	30.68	5.74	5.511
Rejection	37.73	64.13	43.36	6.142	15.81
Indifference/neglect	18.61	4.31	18.27	18.72	1.36
Control	34.56	34.45	35.26	5.87	1.559
Total PARQ	176.43	95.26	172.38	18.12	0.064*

\* $p < 0.10$ , shows non-significant mean difference, (PARQ for Father)

\* $p > 0.10$ , shows non-significant mean difference, (PARQ for Mother)



**Table 2**

*Mean, SD, and t-value of Lower Middle Class (N=72) and Middle Class Children (n=72) on Subscales of PAQ*

Subscales	Lower Middle class		Middle class		
	M	SD	M	SD	T
<b>PAQ</b>					
Hostility/aggression	12.6	13.30	10.5	11.032	0.078
Dependency	15.26	15.33	16.64	16.70	6.359
Negative self esteem	18.57	21.53	15.98	16.051	13.27
Emotional					
unresponsiveness	18.97	19.06	17.31	17.52	12.76
Emotional instability	16.86	20.53	13.5	13.68	1.880
Negative world view	14.79	14.88	13.97	14.16	0.014
Negative self adequacy	17.99	8.086	15.56	15.87	9.59
Total PAQ	116.4	147.50	102.21	139.49	*21.5

### **Discussion**

The results of the present study which aimed to focus on the differences in the parental acceptance-rejection and personality organization / assessment in children of middle class and lower middle class families of Hyderabad, confirmed the hypotheses.

The findings of the study revealed that the lower middle class children have higher scores on maternal indifference / neglect aggression and control than middle class children. The personality organization of middle class children is better than that of lower middle class children because of the parenting styles. Children who perceived their parents are more neglecting, have high scores on emotional instability (Ausubel et al., 1954, Goldin, 1969, Heilbum, 1973, Robkin, 1965).

Children who feel and perceive parental rejection in their life face serious consequences on their personality development and personality functioning (Rohner & Rohner, 1975). The finding of the study revealed significant gender differences in the perception of parental attitude. Lower middle class girls perceived low maternal warmth than boys and middle class girls perceived more maternal aggression than boys. Lower middle class girls perceived less parental warmth / aggression and more parental rejection and neglect than the middle class girls. In our society parents give more attention / aggression / importance to boys as they consider them as "old age security". The lower middle class parents have less education and especially mothers have to face economical and internal family conflicts and they unleash their frustration towards children especially towards girls. The reason for lower middle class children possessing maternal indifference/ neglect, aggression and control is that lower middle class children suffering from poverty, have in-consistent parenting, family conflicts, social isolation and less education. Thus they become more abusive towards their children (Longer, 1978). Thus the delinquency may result from harsh physical discipline in the homes of many children (Buttan, 1973).

In a study for assessing the relationship between perceived maternal warmth and personality disposition of low and high achievement in girl students of Karachi city the findings showed that there is a non-significant mean difference in high and low achieving girls about the perception of their mothers; further, girls belonging to middle class family perceive their mothers as less rejecting, more accepting as compare to upper class family. Girls of middle class families were found to be more obedient as compared to upper class families (Imam, 2004).

In a study examining the child's assessment of self concept and personality, perceived parental behavior and schooling status in three groups from privileged schools, government schools and

un-privileged schools. The findings showed that there is a significant difference in the child's parental acceptance rejection, the child's assessment of personal and self concept in between the three groups; and that further in the lower socioeconomic status; the level of warmth is also lower and degree of control is reported as higher by children (Jahangir & Tahir, 1999).

A study conducted by Malik (2010) on sample of 200 children from five cities of Punjab found that the severely abused child perceived more rejection than the mildly abused children, further it was found that socio-economic status and the education of the fathers are non-significant for child abuse.

Sudhir and Lalhirini (1989) confirmed that socioeconomic status is very important; it definitely related to the parent child interaction in society. Altherley (1991) found that subjects belonging to high socioeconomic status showed more happiness, more good behavior and higher academic ability as compared to low socioeconomic status subjects.

A study for examining boys and girls perception of maternal and paternal behavior; showed that both boys and girls perceived their mother as more nurturing and most controlling and further research indicated that there may be an interaction in social class, age of child and parents age (Droppleman & Schaefer, 1963).

## **Conclusion**

Three major findings were revealed from the present study:

1. There is a significant mean difference in hostility / aggression, control , and there is non-significant difference in warmth/ affection, indifference / neglect, rejection, for PARQ of fathers among middle class children and lower middle class children of Hyderabad.

2. There is significant mean difference in hostility/aggression, indifference / neglect, and there is a non-significant mean difference in warmth / affection, rejection and control for PARQ of mother among middle class children and lower middle class children.
3. There is significant mean difference in dependency, negative self-esteem, emotional unresponsiveness, emotional instability, negative self-adequacy, and there is a non-significant difference in hostility / aggression and negative world view of PAQ.

It means that children of Hyderabad, belongs to middle class and lower middle class perceive parental acceptance and rejection for father and mother as same and there is no difference among them on the basis of socioeconomic class. But on the basis of Personality Assessment/ organization, PAQ, then there is significant difference among middle class and lower middle class children of Hyderabad.

### **Limitations**

There are many factors that are affected for children's personality assessment and the perceived parental acceptance and rejection, but this study focuses only on differences in socioeconomic status in which the sample has been taken only from middle class and lower middle class. In future studies can be conducted on upper middle/middle class children and more factors can be analyzed statistically regarding the parents of children such as number of family members, education of mother and father, age of parents, household conditions/ home environment, facilities in home, occupation of parents and marital conflicts because these factors impact on the nature and parenting style of parents while the children perceive accordingly. Data for future research should be large and collected from more than ten schools and also more areas of District Hyderabad as well as of Sindh for the generalization of results.



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