

Perceived Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Self-efficacy of Pakistani Adolescents

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The present research investigated relationship between Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Self-efficacy of Pakistani adolescents. Sample was recruited from different public sector schools of Lahore, Pakistan and it comprised of 162 adolescents with equal number of girls and boys (Mean age=14 years, age SD=2 years). Shortened Urdu Versions of Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ) and General Self-efficacy Scale (GSE) were used for assessment. Majority of the adolescents rated their parents as warm and less rejecting. Significant positive relationship between mother and father's warmth and general self-efficacy of adolescents was found. There was significant negative relationship of mother and father's hostility, neglect and undifferentiated rejection with self-efficacy of adolescents. Findings revealed no gender differences in perceived mother warmth, hostility, indifference, undifferentiated rejection and self efficacy. However, fathers were perceived as significantly more rejecting by sons as compared to daughters. Findings highlight significance of parental acceptance rejection in adolescents' psychological development.

Keywords: Parental acceptance, Parental rejection, Adolescents, Self-efficacy.

Relationship between parents and children is the closest one that an individual experiences throughout his/her life. Adolescence phase of growth is very critical in the lives of human beings and implication of parental relationship at this stage of development has great importance. This relationship is important as it provides the most important environment in which children develop as individuals and as functioning members of their society (Russell, Mize, & Bissaker, 2002). Healthy and warm relation of parents with their children can have profound effects on personality as well as psychological adjustment of their children. Thus the present study aimed to investigate the outcome of parental acceptance-rejection for self-efficacy beliefs of adolescents.

As the child enters adolescence, logical and abstract reasoning skills increase, and there is a greater inclination towards questioning the authority. At this time,

emotional adjustment becomes necessary for both adolescents and their parents. During puberty, the young adolescent begins to seek out an adult identity, which involves progressively establishing emotional independence from parents. Parents may respond with anger or feelings of rejection. Shared feelings of rejection may also be experienced by the adolescent. Thus, this is often a difficult period in the parent-adolescent relationship (Pardeck & Pardeck, 1990 as cited in Levy, 2001).

Parental acceptance is defined as a parent's feelings of warmth, affection, care, comfort, concern, nurturance, support, or love which they communicate to their children. The communication of these feelings can be physical or verbal or both. Physical communication can take different forms such as hugging, gentle loving and kissing, smiling and other behaviours expressing their approval or support. Verbal communication