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Abstract

Podium

Major: Psychology

Faculty Mentor(s): Kristine Kelly

The Personality Problems Linked With Parent Child Relationships

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Previous research has shown that children's mental health is often determined by the quality of the parent-child relationship. When children have a positive relationship with their parents, this can buffer the child from severe mental health problems (Steele & McKinney, 2019). In particular the parent child relationship affects the development of borderline personality disorder (Boucher et al., 2017). Thus there is a well known link between one's relationship with their parents and mental health outcomes. However little research has focused on non clinical personality difficulties and their association with one's parent relationships. This was the purpose of the current study. We hypothesized that positive parental relationships would be associated with fewer personality problems, and this would be true especially for the mother child relationship.

The sample for the study consisted of 61 undergraduate students who filled out a questionnaire online. The questionnaire was comprised of two scales. First was the inventory of personality difficulties (Kelly, 2023), which has ten subscales measuring subclinical personality disorders such as suspiciousness, impulsivity, and rebelliousness. The second was the parental acceptance/rejection scale (Rohner, 2005), which measures parental warmth, hostility, neglect, and rejection for the mother and father separately.

We conducted a correlational analysis to examine the relationship between the ten personality difficulties and the four parenting subscales for mother and father. Results showed that a negative relationship with one's father was associated with suspiciousness. A negative relationship with one's mother was associated with suspiciousness, impulsivity, social inhibition, and rebelliousness. These results support our hypothesis.