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Research Article

LOSS OF PARENTS AND ITS EFFECT ON CHILDREN'S PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the current investigation was to examine whether parent's death or separations have any impact on child's personality development. Study conducted on (n=40) participants of either sex (Group I, n=16) both parental deprived (Group II, n=24) single parental deprived age ranging between (15-26) years. Multidimensional personality inventory (MPI) administered on all the participants included in the study. Analysis of the data indicated that who experienced loss of both parents were introverted, poor self concept and adjustment problem seen to their personality profile in comparison to those whose one parent present. The difference was statistically significant at (p<.01) level.

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INTRODUCTION

The development of personality traits seems to be strongly influenced by the stability of the family environment children experience⁸. At first early life experiences, such as parental deprivation, could act as an impediment to a child's personality development. Theories on personality trait development attribute personality changes to a combination of environmental and genetic factors, as well as life experiences¹¹. Interaction with the available attachment figure children often constructs a mental picture regarding their self and the outside world which often influence their perception, expectation and planning regarding how they should behave in future^{3,4} and once formed these models often tend to remain stable across time. Moreover these internal working models can be positive or negative depending upon the availability and responsiveness of the attachment figure which further influences children's perception of themselves as competent and worthwhile individuals in future⁵. Thus, it could be said that parental attachment has been found to exert its influence not only during infancy or childhood but also during the transitional phase of adolescence^{1,6,7,10}. Recent research about family defines its concept as a privileged environment of personality formation and bounding, therefore, it has a fundamental role in the development of toddlers and adolescents^{2,9}. The growing infant who began being totally dependent on mother for soothing, stimulation and emotional regulation, gradually claims the ability to manage alone. In other words: "early development

entails the gradual transition from extreme dependence on others to manage the world for us to acquiring the competencies needed to manage the world for oneself⁴.

Considering all these evidences it becomes clear that role of parents is the key to develop their child's personality. Parents give many things to their children and directly involved in child development, without parents, it would be very tough for anyone to have a better life.

Thus, the present study attempts to investigate whether parent's death or separations have any impact on child's personality development.

Hypotheses

1. There will be no effect of parental deprivation on child's personality development.
2. There will be no effect of both parental deprivations according to their age group.
3. There will be no effect of single parental deprivations according to their age group.

METHODS

The sample comprised (n=40) participants divided into two groups (group I, n=16) i.e both parental deprived (group II, n=24) single parental deprived age ranging between (15-26) year with minimum education 3th class. Mean age of (group I, n=16) was found to be 21.68+ 3.51 and mean age of (group II,

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n=24) was found to be 19.20±2.60 year respectively. Year of schooling 7.81 ± 3.31 and 11.08 ± 3.77 of both groups

Instruments

Scale used in this study was multidimensional personality inventory (MPI)¹³ Used inventory has 120 items in all. Each 20 items are related to following personality measures: Extroversion-Introversion, Self-Concept, Dependence- Independence, Temperament, Adjustment, and Anxiety. Each item has three alternative answers -Yes, Sometimes and No which refers to the extent of agreement and disagreement of the content. The scoring procedure of this inventory is 3 marks for 'Yes', 2 marks for 'Indefinite' and 1 mark for 'No'.

Procedure

Study examined personality dimension of 40 subjects selected purposively from Noida sector 168, Greater Noida, Bilaspur, Dankaur, Amarpur, UP, India. Multidimensional Personality Inventory (MPI) administered on all the participants included in the study. Only those subjects were included in the study that had any sort of parental deprivation i.e. Parent's death or separated from their parents due to any other social reasons, viz, divorce, separation, & others. Those subjects were excluded from the study that had any sort of serious physical, psychiatric illness and any kind of disability. Rapport was established with each subject & preliminary information regarding their age, socio-economic status, education, parents, age of separation & parental income & their occupation was recorded through an information schedule. Then each selected subjects were approached individually.

Statistical Analysis

Mean, SD and T- test was used to analyze the data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result of present study has been given below and consecutively discussed.

Sample Characteristics

With regard to socio- demographic characteristics of the subjects (18%) were male and (82%) were female in both groups. (76%) subjects from poor socio- economic condition (80%) subjects were from rural background.

Table 1 Comparison of personality of both and single parental deprivation on multi dimension personality inventory

Dimension	Group	N	Mean	S.D.
Extroversion-Introversion	Group I	16	36.62	12.85
	Group II	24	45.91	14.12
Self-Concept	Group I	16	29.56	2.50
	Group II	24	44.37	13.48
Dependence-Independence	Group I	16	46.75	10.22
	Group II	24	38.58	11.69
Temperament	Group I	16	29.87	6.85
	Group II	24	42.33	15.02
Adjustment	Group I	16	37.00	12.93
	Group II	24	43.29	15.10
Anxiety	Group I	16	31.75	9.19
	Group II	24	39.29	15.61

The mean scores of who were separated from their both parents were found to be significantly higher (p <.01 and p<.05) level than those who were separated from their single parent in dimensions extroversion-introversion, self concept, depende -

nce-independence and temperaments.¹² also found that early experience impact later development this impact could account for individual differences in many aspects such as cognition, behaviour, social skills, emotional responses and personality, it reveal that these early experiences shape the development of a unique personality. There was no significant difference found on rest of two dimensions.

Table 2 Personality comparison of both parental deprivations according to their age group

Dimension	Age	N	Mean	S.D
Extroversion-Introversion	0-8 Year	5	56.2	4.32
	9-13 Year	11	37.63	12.04
Self-Concept	0-8Year	5	49.2	9.01
	9-13 Year	11	32.27	12.41
Dependence-Independence	0-8Year	5	50	7.90
	9-13 Year	11	30.63	9.54
Temperament	0-8Year	5	26	7.31
	9-13 Year	11	38	11.54
Adjustment	0-8Year	5	31.6	15.05
	9-13 Year	11	40.18	13.71
Anxiety	0-8Year	5	37.2	13.88
	9-13 Year	11	36.90	11.82

The mean scores of who were separated from their both parents at the age of 0-8 year were found to be significantly higher (<.01) level than those who were separated at the age of 9-13 Year in dimensions extroversion-introversion, self concept, dependence-independence and temperaments.⁸ Also found that early life experiences, such as disruptions in family structure, could act as an impediment to a child's personality development There was no significant difference in rest of two dimensions. 0-8 year were found to be more introvert (dimension I); high self concept (dimension II), highly independent (dimension III) then those of 9-13 Year group.

Table 3 Personality comparison of single parental deprivation according to their age group

Dimension	Age	N	Mean	S.D
Extroversion-Introversion	0-8 Year	14	31.3	10.43
	9-13 Year	10	44.2	13.38
Self-Concept	0-8 Year	14	42.4	14.04
	9-13 Year	10	47.8	10.90
Dependence-Independence	0-8 Year	14	40.5	11.24
	9-13 Year	10	37.2	13.54
Temperament	0-8 Year	14	42.7	14.13
	9-13 Year	10	42.1	9.72
Adjustment	0-8 Year	14	40.9	12.16
	9-13 Year	10	40.4	14.18
Anxiety	0-8 Year	14	39.6	14.23
	9-13 Year	10	41.1	16.95

The mean scores of who were separated from their single parents at the age of 0-8 year were found to be significantly higher (<.01) level than those who were separated at the age of 9-13 Year in dimensions extroversion-introversion. There was no significant difference in rest of five dimensions. 9-13 Year were found to be more introverted then those of 0-8 year group. According to^{1, 6,7,10} parental attachments has been found to exert its influence not only during infancy or childhood but also during the transitional phase of adolescence.

The results indicate that the original hypothesis rejected in this research.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of research it may conclude that who were separated from their both parents were found to be significantly higher than those who were separated from their single parent on personality profile Result also shows that loss of a parent at an early age has been shown to lead to long-term psychological damage in children.

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