Original Research

Prediction of Children's Behavioral Disorders Based On Parenting Styles, Family Emotional Atmosphere and Parents' Marital Conflicts

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Abstract

Background: The family is the first base that creates a bond between the child and her/his surroundings. In the family, the child learns the basic ideas about the world, develops physically and mentally, learns the ways of speaking, learns the basic norms of behavior, and finally his attitudes, morals and spirits are formed and become socialized. Therefore, the current research was conducted with the aim of predicting children's behavioral disorders based on parenting styles, family emotional atmosphere and marital conflicts of the parents.

Methods: The current research method was descriptive-correlation and it is an applied research. The approximate size of the population was N=4500, Morgan's table was used to determine the sample size, and based on this table, n=310 people were selected as a sample using the available sampling method. The data collection tools included Rother's Behavioral Disorders Questionnaire, Parent Version, Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (1991), family emotional atmosphereScale (1964) and Barati and Sanai's Marital Conflicts (2000). The obtained data were analyzed by Pearson correlation and multivariate regression analysis by SPSS version 20.

Results: The results indicated that the variables of parenting styles, family emotional atmosphere and parents' marital conflicts can be predictors of children's behavioral disorders ($P \leq 0.005$). And finally, it has been determined that there was a significant relationship between parenting styles, emotional family atmosphere, and parents' marital conflicts with children's behavioral disorders at the level of ($P \leq 0.005$).

Conclusion: From these findings, it can be concluded that the variables of parenting styles, family emotional atmosphere and parents' marital conflicts have the power to explain behavioral disorders in children.

Keywords: Behavioral disorders of children, Parenting styles, Family emotional atmosphereand Marital conflicts

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Introduction

Childhood is one of the most important stages of life in which a person's personality is established and formed. Lack of attention to the sensitive period of childhood and lack of proper guidance in the process of growth and development is the cause of most of the inconsistencies and behavioral disorders after this period. This neglect leads to lack of compromise and adaptation to the environment and occurrence of various deviations in different dimensions for the child (1). After several decades of research in the field of morbid psychology and contrary to the initial belief, it was shown that children and teenagers are also at risk of suffering from mental disorders, and in total, between 14 and 24 percent of children and teenagers suffer from all kinds of problems and behavioral and emotional disorders (2). Researches conducted in different cultures have shown that a significant percentage of children have behavioral disorders during school and before school (3). Behavioral disorders are common and debilitating disorders that cause many problems for teachers, families, and children themselves, and are associated with high percentages of social problems. Various definitions of these disorders have been presented, each definition emphasizes special aspects, but all definitions have a relative agreement on the following: 1) these behaviors are extreme, behaviors that are slightly different from the norms are not considered part of these disorders, 2) behavioral disorders are chronic and do not resolve quickly. 3) These behaviors are not accepted by society due to inconsistency with socio-cultural expectations (4).

Although most of the research is done in order to answer this important question, why do some children and teenagers engage in such behaviors? However, limited studies have been devoted to examining variables related to it, and the results of these studies show that many variables can affect behavioral disorders in students (5-7). In this regard, the interactive model has shown that the development of children and their personality traits are also affected by daily interactions in addition to biological patterns (8). Parents are the first ones who communicate with the child and have the most influential encounters and interactions in the formation of the child's future life structure (9). Empirical evidence also emphasizes the importance of the role of individual beliefs and perceptions in health, mental illness, feeling of danger and violence, the occurrence of behavioral disorders and its aggravation according to the perception of family parenting methods (10, 11). According to Baumrind and Sheffer's model, the two basic axes of parenting methods are love and control. The control dimension refers to the degree of independence and freedom that parents give to their children. Children who are neglected and mistreated by their parents suffer from various behavioral and psychological problems in their future life (12 and 13). Research has shown that authoritarian and aloof parenting methods lead to destructive behaviors and are among the strong predictors of mental and behavioral disorders (6).

Among other variables that have been mentioned in the framework of the family environment and related to the occurrence of behavioral disorders is emotional family atmosphere. The atmosphere and emotional space of the family means the psychological and emotional relationships and exchanges that exist between its members, the totality of these relationships has a special form that actually determines the dominant form of behavior of the family members (14). In fact, if the relationship between family members is warm and intimate and without conflict, it creates a calm and suitable atmosphere for children, and it is obvious that they enjoy life and interaction in this family (15). But if the family is full of conflicts and conflicts and the members do not respect each other, the family environment turns into a cold and rejecting environment and the children look for a safe environment to escape from these conflicts (16).

In addition to parenting styles and emotional family atmosphere, another factor that is

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considered an important framework in the evaluation of parent-child components and is a very good predictor of the mental health of children and adolescents is the presence of marital conflicts in parents. According to Montgomery (1989), marital conflict is an interactive process in which one or both spouses feel uncomfortable about aspects of their relationship and try to resolve it in some way (17). In addition, conflict in relationships occurs when one person's behavior does not match the other person's expectations (18). Conflicts can lead to the weakening of marital relations, the weakening of children's adaptation, the possibility of increasing conflict between parents and children and also between relatives (19), in such a way that the incidence of behavioral disorders and problems in children from families with conflicts is 45% higher than Conflict-free families have been reported (20).

In summarizing the above, it can be stated that many researches have shown that in the same way that the interaction and proper quality between the family helps their individual and family success in the future, improper interactions and communication between spouses and children also disrupt the healthy growth and general health of all family members, especially children which is a sign of the extent and importance of the family issue and the strengthening and weakening factors of this relationship on other psychological aspects (21); It is obvious that providing any solution depends on finding relevant and effective factors in the occurrence of behavioral disorders, which will be very useful and appreciated. Therefore, it is expected that such a research would be appropriate for psychologists to discover the factors affecting behavioral disorders, for school counselors in the direction of interventions in the field of parenting styles and marital conflicts of parents, for school administrators and teachers in identifying and dealing with students with behavioral disorders, For families in promoting secure attachment, authoritative parenting and enhancing the use of emotional atmosphere (22). In short, it is quite clear that if we want a suitable educational and learning environment and, in a more general view, a society free from behavioral disorders and problems, this issue should be dealt with in a completely scientific manner as the cause of more problems and in the meantime, conducting research in the field of parenting styles, emotional family atmosphere, and parents' marital conflicts as predictors of behavioral disorders is a practical priority and necessity. Therefore, the current research will be conducted with the aim of answering the question, is it possible to predict children's behavioral disorders based on parenting styles, emotional family atmosphere, and parents' marital conflicts?

Methods

The implementation method of this research is descriptive-correlation and of applied research type. The statistical population of the research was formed by the parents of all children aged 7 to 11 (first and second grade) living in Dehgolan city in the first six months of 2020. By extracting the approximate size of the community, N=4500, and using Morgan's table, n= 310 people were selected as a sample, the available sampling method was also used to select the sample, in this way, a research sample of families referring to the counseling center of Dehgolan city and especially the counseling center under the supervision of Dehgolan education and upbringing, who had referred to the relevant center for problems related to their child with behavioral disorder, and the children attending the first elementary schools in Dehgolan city were selected.

The following questionnaires were used to collect information:

1) Rother Behavioral Disorders Questionnaire Parent Version: This questionnaire contains 30 statements with questions. The time required for scoring and completing the questionnaire by parents is about 10 minutes. Parents consider the child's behavior in the past 12 months without special tools and answer the necessary materials. The scoring method is 0, 1, 2. Subgroups and terms related to it are: conduct disorder, learning

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disorder, psychosomatic diseases, impulsivity, anxiety and hyperactive symptoms.

Rutter and Smith (1981) report that the retest reliability and internal reliability of this scale are very high. The correlation in a retest study with an interval of 2 months was 0.74 and the correlation between fathers and mothers was 0.64. In a study by Wong (1988), 124 Chinese children were compared with two groups of children. The results of the mentioned research showed that although all the items of this questionnaire do not differentiate between the patients and the control group, but the total score in the scale of parents and teachers is very satisfactory and the questionnaire has good power to diagnose disorders. The reliability of this questionnaire in the present study was obtained using Cronbach's alpha for a total score of 0.78.

2) Questionnaire of parenting styles and dimensions: Bamrind's responded the parenting scale (1991) was used to measure parenting methods. The questionnaire of parenting styles and dimensions has 30 questions, which are scored on a Likert scale in the range of one to five. The questions of this questionnaire have been prepared and compiled to measure the three authoritarian, dictatorial and permissive styles based on Bamrind's theory and parenting styles. Reliability and validity of Robinson et al.'s parenting styles and dimensions questionnaire based on a sample group of 1377 people based on Cronbach's alpha with authoritarian dimension ∂=0.86, dictatorial dimension ∂=0.82 and test dimension based on 1, has been permissiveness 64/ 0= ∂. Buri (1991) has reported the reliability of this questionnaire with the retest method of 81% for the permissive method, 85% for the autocratic method and 92% for the authoritative method. The reliability of this questionnaire in the present study was obtained using Cronbach's alpha for a total score of 0.81.

3) Affective Family Climate Scale: This scale was created by Hillburn (1964; cited by Mousavi Shoshtri et al., 1997) in order to measure the level of affection in child-parent interactions. Both questions measure one of the sub-components of affective atmosphere. Even-numbered questions measure the father-child relationship and odd-numbered questions measure the mother-child relationship. The scoring of the test is from 1 (very little) to 5 (very much). The total score of father-child is 40, and mother-child is also 40. This scale has 8 subscales (love, caressing, shared experiences, giving gifts, encouraging, trusting and feeling safe). The whole family emotional atmospherescale consists of 16 questions, each of which includes a subscale. The questions with odd numbers are related to the subject's feelings towards his father and the questions with even numbers express the same relationship and feelings towards his mother. Also, the answer sheet of this five-option scale consists of answers of very little, little, moderately, much, very much, and the subject marks one of them according to his feelings.

In Koti et al.'s (2007) research, a criterion-referenced questionnaire (AFC) was used to determine the concurrent validity of the above scale, and the validity coefficient of the questionnaire was 67%. In the research of Asgari, Safarzadeh and Ghasemi Mofard (2011), Cronbach's alpha, Tansif and Guttman's alpha methods were used to check the internal consistency of the family emotional atmospherescale, which was obtained as 0.85, 0.77 and 0.77, respectively, which indicates the reliability of this scale is acceptable. The reliability of this questionnaire in the present study was obtained using Cronbach's alpha for a total score of 0.81.

4) Marital conflicts between Barati and Sanaei (2000): This questionnaire has 42 items that are used to measure conflicts between husband and wife. It measures metacognition and seven dimensions of marital conflicts, which are: Decreased cooperation, decreased sexual relations, increased emotional reactions, increased support of children, increased personal relationship with relatives, decreased relationship with spouse's relatives, separating financial

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affairs. The items are compiled based on a five-point Likert scale from always (5) to never (1), where high scores indicate more conflict and low scores indicate normal marital relations. The items are compiled based on a five-point Likert scale from always (5) to never (1), where high scores indicate more conflict and low scores indicate normal marital relations. The minimum score is 42 and the maximum is 210. A raw score in the range of 70 to 140 indicates normal marital relations, a raw score in the range of 115 to 134 indicates excessive conflict, and a raw score of 135 and above indicates severe conflict.

In the study of Soudani et al. (2010), the reliability coefficient of the general scale of marital conflicts using Cronbach's alpha method was 0.93 and for the components of decreased cooperation (0.85), decreased sexual relations (0.90), increased emotional response (0.92), increasing the support of children (0.82), increasing the relationship with one's family (0.90), reducing the relationship with the spouse's family (0.87) and separating financial affairs from each other (0.95).

In this research, the statistical method of simultaneous regression was used to analyze the statistical information of the data. All the above statistical activities were done with the help of SPSS software (Ver 22). In addition, all statistical tests were tested at the level of significance (α = 0.05).

Results

The results of the research showed that the highest number of subjects were in the 36-40 years old group with a frequency of 36% and the lowest number were in the 46-50 years old group with a frequency of 14%. The most mothers with 36% had a post-graduate degree and the least mothers with 10% had a post-graduate degree or higher. 58% of mothers were unemployed and 42% were employed. In the table below, the analysis of the descriptive results related to the variables of behavioral disorders, parenting styles, family emotional atmosphere and marital conflicts is presented: Therefore, in this part of the data analysis, the research question is investigated.

1) Is there a relationship between parenting styles, family emotional atmosphere, parents' marital conflicts and children's behavioral disorders?

Therefore, simultaneous regression analysis was used to investigate this question, the results of which are presented in Table 2. As can be seen in Table 2, based on the results of multiple regression analysis and with the simultaneous entry method, the multiple correlation coefficient for the linear combination of parenting styles, family emotional atmosphere, parents' marital conflicts with children's behavioral disorders is equal to MR=0.69 and The coefficient of determination is RS=0.47 that the effect of parenting styles and family emotional atmosphere is significant at the level ($p<0.01$) and the effect of parents' marital conflicts at the level ($p>0.05$). According to the obtained coefficient of determination, it has been determined that about 0.47 of the variance of children's behavioral disorders is explained by predictor variables of parenting styles, family emotional atmosphere, and parents' marital conflicts.

According to Table 2, it can be concluded that the variable effect of parenting styles with children's behavioral disorders is stronger than the effect of the other two variables, that is, parenting styles play the role of the main variable, but other variables, such as family emotional atmosphere and parents' marital conflicts, reduce their effect on children's behavioral disorders, which can be concluded to have a minor effect on children's behavioral disorders.

Discussion

The aim of this research is to predict children's behavioral disorders based on parenting styles, family emotional atmosphere and parents' marital conflicts. Based on the results of multiple regression analysis and with the simultaneous entry method, the multiple correlation coefficient for the linear combination of parenting styles, family emotional atmosphere, parents' marital conflicts with children's behavioral disorders is MR=0.69 and the coefficient of determination is RS=0.47, that the effect of parenting styles and

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family emotional atmosphere is significant at the level ($p<0.01$) and the effect of parents' marital conflicts at the level ($p>0.05$). According to the obtained coefficient of determination, it has been determined that about 0.47 of the variance of children's behavioral disorders is explained by predictor variables of parenting styles, family emotional atmosphere, and parents' marital conflicts.

In explaining these findings, it can be said that paying attention to the structure of dictatorial and permissive parenting methods shows that the perception of low affection from parents is the common aspect of these two types of parenting methods, while the perception of parental affection reduces the possibility of adolescent behavioral disorder. Another result of the research is that perceived warmth and coldness from family interactions is effective in adolescent behavioral disorders. Warmth in parent-child interactions reduces the probability of behavioral disorder, and on the other hand, coldness in relationships increases the probability of such behaviors, and it is a better predictor variable than warmth in relationships, and only explains 9% of the changes related to the presence of behavioral disorder (7). Self-concept and self-esteem are among the most important issues of adolescence, and parental approval and support are important sources of its formation and cohesion. Naturally, the feeling of coldness and rejection by children, even if it is a perceptual error, makes their self-concept negative (23).

Previous research also indicates that authoritarian parenting style, use of physical punishment and discipline, parental hostility and rejection by weakening the adolescent's self-concept and lack of emotional regulation are effective on behavioral disorders. Due to the fact that self-concept is the basis of self-esteem, its weakening causes the adolescent's self-esteem to be weakened and severely reduced, and low self-esteem is related to adolescent behavioral disorder (23). Research evidence indicates that conflicts between family members, domestic violence and the use of punishment for negative behaviors, the level of parental supervision, family members' communication methods, negative, ineffective and weak parenting methods and children's negative perception of the family environment directly It affects the behavior disorder and adaptation of the teenager. On the other hand, some other researches have shown that family support, attention and care, family communication, the behavior pattern of family adults, family involvement and interest in children's school issues and high expectations are among the external factors related to the family, which in They have a protective and deterrent effect against the aggressive behavior of teenagers (10).

The institution of the family is an interactive and interconnected system where each of its members affects each other according to their position and role. Parents have the most important role in the family, and if they use effective factors in education, they can make a significant contribution to the growth, development and personality development of their children, and as a coach, they can prevent the occurrence of personality disorders in them. One of the most important and influential factors in raising children is to observe favorable relationships between parents. The origin of these favorable relations of parents is to actualize their emotions. Affection means attention, desire, and helpful tendency towards each other, which are expressed in various ways towards others along with mercy and compassion. Parents influence the educational process of each other and their children in a positive and efficient way by channeling their potential emotional capabilities (2).

Therefore, it can be judged that, from Golman's point of view, emotions and emotions in the family are the main determinants of the healthy growth of our children. This ability helps maintain calmness and self-control in tense, critical and stressful situations. One of the most important characteristics of families with an inappropriate emotional atmosphere is weak social relationships

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accompanied by stress and anxiety. Because of this weakness and to escape from the anxiety caused by social relationships in real situations of everyday life, the people of these families turn to spaces that cause less anxiety in them, therefore, they are not responsive to the emotional and emotional needs of their children and do not meet the needs of their children, and consequently, they make their children prone to behavioral problems. In this regard, the study of Meranda and colleagues (2001) has shown that children who experienced bad behavior from their mothers suffer more from dissociative disorders and externalized behavioral problems. Van Aken et al.'s (2007) research also shows that mother's emotional stability indirectly affects children's aggressive behavior through maternal support.

This finding of the research is in line with the research of Van Aken and colleagues (2007), it has shown that there is a direct relationship between the stability of parents' relationships and attention problems in children. Since defects in relationships are related to problems related to family health, this research finding is consistent with studies that show that the frequency of history of mental disorders in parents and relatives with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder is higher than that of normal children (22). It seems that the defect in the parents' relationship affects their mental health along with the formation of a certain style of life in the emotional relationship with the children and causes an increase in the symptoms of mental disorders and behavioral problems in the children. It seems that highlighting and developing emotional capabilities among spouses not only organizes the relationship between them at different levels, but also improves and improves relationships with others, including God, as well as a healthier family atmosphere to avoid tension and nurture May the nature and capabilities of the children be good. In other words, when parents, in the position of the most central element of family interactions, have a basic commitment to moral, value, religious and emotional teachings in spousal relationships, they can be an acceptable and valuable model for transmitting the concepts and teachings of the universal, human, transtemporal and translocal value system of Islam to their children and establish their personality and existential identity (10).

Conclusion

It is not enough to simply accept children's emotions and value them; In addition to the need to freely experience emotions, children also need to understand these emotions. In this regard, parents can be a role model for their children through guidance, so that when they experience critical situations, they can overcome their problems by taking advantage of the guidance model of parents and do not suffer from anxiety and lack of control. Therefore, experiencing emotions is a critical situation for parents and children to communicate, and children learn how to react to their own and others' emotions at those times. The answer they receive shows them how to cope with their emotions and resist emotional crises. In fact, parents who know their own and their children's emotions and have been successful in recognizing emotional situations can help their children understand and manage their emotions by listening with empathy and help them to cope through the ability emotional intelligence can resist difficult and stressful life events with greater adaptability.

According to the theories of social learning and social control, parents influence their children's social behaviors and emotions both directly (through role modeling and social reinforcement) and indirectly (through forming perceptions and attitudes). Ambivalence and disintegration of relationships among family members, strict discipline, contradictory and authoritarian parenting methods are more likely to be related to having behavioral disorders, and boys' weak perception of self-worth, warmth and support in the family environment, probably lead to their behavioral disorders. While this type of perception among girls increases the possibility of them having behavioral disorders and becoming victims

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(2). It should be noted that in this research it was not possible to control intervening variables such as parents' education, social and economic class of the family, as well as children's and parents' personality. Therefore, it is suggested that in future studies, by increasing the sample size, illiterate mothers and fathers should also be included in the study, and a fully structured interview should be used to measure the subjects, as well as the role of other psychological variables such as cognitive regulation, emotion, and mental health in to be investigated between children with behavioral disorder and normal. According to the findings of the present research, paying more attention to the role of the family and parent-child interactions and parenting methods in children's behavioral and emotional disorders, it is suggested that this important issue be taught to parents by organizing family education workshops and positive parenting methods in schools. Finally, by presenting a special program in this field through mass media, radio and television and allocating programs with an attractive form and informative content, especially in schools, reducing children's behavioral problems should be implemented by using problems in their families.

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AU conceptualized the study objectives and design.

Ethical Consideration:

None

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Tables:

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation of scales

Component	Statistics			
	Mean	SD	Lowest score	Highest score
Total score of behavioral disorders	52.54	88.17	26	83
Total score of parenting styles	66.90	64.14	51	128
The total emotional score of the family	48.50	62.3	22	78
Marital conflict total score	15.137	35.9	83	191

Table 2: Multiple correlation coefficients of parenting styles, family emotional atmosphere, parents' marital conflicts with children's behavioral disorders using the simultaneous entry method

Statistical indicators / Variables	Multiple correlation R	Coefficient of determining RS	B	ß	t	P
Parenting styles	0.69	0.47	0.29	0.40	2.69	0.001
Family atmosphere			0.07	0.15	2.49	0.001
Marital conflicts of parents			0.15	0.12	3.31	0.005

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