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Test Construction to Measure Misbehavior and Correlational Study on Helicopter Parenting and Parental Attachment among Adolescent Students

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KEYWORDS

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A B S T R A C T

The study was done on helicopter parenting, parental attachment and misbehavior among adolescents. The present study will help to understand the importance of the helicopter parenting style, parental attachment and misbehavior. So appropriate parenting style will lead to better attachment and productive acceptable behavior among adolescents, thus it will help them grow in a more effective way as an individual. Helicopter parenting is the independent variable; parental attachment and misbehavior are dependent variables in the study. The tools used are, Helicopter Parenting questionnaire by Schiffrin *et al.*, (2013), Parental Attachment questionnaire by Kenny (1987), Misbehavior questionnaire was developed by the researcher, suitable for the present needs of the study. The sample for the study was adolescents from 16 – 19 years of age. The sample size was 317, out of which 166 male and 151 female samples were taken as samples. The students were also asked for their personal details like age, gender, number of siblings, socio economic status and whether their mother is working. These details were used as demographic variables in the study. The relationship and differences between the variables and demographic variables was found. The results of the present study indicate that students have average Helicopter parenting, high Parental attachment towards mother and average Parental attachment towards father and they show average misbehavior. This shows that parents should focus on their children misbehavior and should help them deal and overcome with it effectively. The school also should encourage the students and organize them to deal with misbehavior. Their behavioral problems have to be treated so that it will not affect them in future life events.

Introduction

Adolescence is a transitional stage of physical and psychological human development that generally occurs during

the period from puberty to legal adulthood. The period of adolescence is most closely associated with the teenage years. In studying adolescent development, adolescence can be defined biologically, as

the physical transition marked by the onset of puberty and the termination of physical growth; cognitively, as changes in the ability to think abstractly and multi-dimensionally; or socially, as a period of preparation for adult roles.

“Helicopter parents” are constantly hovering over their young adult child in areas of decision making, academic studies, and social relationships (Shoup *et al.*, 2009).

Attachment is a deep and enduring emotional bond that connects one person to another across time and space (Ainsworth, 1973; Bowlby, 1969).

Chales (1999) defined misbehavior as “behavior that is considered inappropriate for the setting or situation in which it occurs”.

Helicopter parenting is a new phenomenon widely spread among parents. This research needs to know the impact of this parenting style on adolescent attachment and behavior. To know the negative or positive impact of this parenting style and how does it affect the behavior of the adolescents. Researchers have proved children with helicopter parents are prone to depression and low life satisfaction. Helicopter parenting is associated with child maladaptive problem and correlated with dependency on others and ineffective scoping skills. Research works were done in western countries but in our country like India this type of parenting style is more predominant so the researcher wants to identify whether over parenting have a negative or positive effect on their attachment and behavior.

The present study will help to understand the importance of the helicopter parenting style, parental attachment and misbehavior. So appropriate parenting style will lead to

better attachment and productive acceptable behavior among adolescents, thus it will help them grow in a more effective way as an individual

Studies suggest that Helicopter parenting will lead to anxiety and depression among children. Children with Helicopter parents have shown lower levels of well-being and they also feel that their parents are intrusive. Helicopter parenting shows higher levels of depression and lower level of life satisfaction.

Helicopter parenting and overall attachment were found to have an inverse relationship in which high perceived helicopter parenting indicated a lower feeling of overall attachment. Children who are securely attached with parents show higher level of self-esteem.

Parental attachment has direct effects on self-esteem. Research on the field of Misbehavior states that, emotional support from teachers show positive association with desired student behavior. Negative inconsistent parental behavior is associated with behavioral problems in children.

There is no specific study done using all the three variables of the present study. Therefore the researcher has proposed to find out the relationship between the three variables of the present study.

Materials and Methods

To study the relationship between Helicopter Parenting, Parental Attachment and Misbehavior among adolescents.

Objective of the study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

To determine perceived Helicopter Parenting among adolescents.

To determine Parental Attachment among adolescents.

To determine Misbehavior among adolescents.

To identify the relationship between Helicopter Parenting, Parental Attachment and Misbehavior.

Research design

The research of the study is exploratory research design.

Variables of the study

The present study consists of three variables, one independent variable and two dependent variables.

The independent variable is Helicopter Parenting.

The dependent variables are Parental Attachment and Misbehavior.

Sample description

The sample for the study was adolescents from 16 – 19 years of age. Samples are school students specifically 11th and 12th who will range between the adolescent populations.

The sample size is 350 out of which 317 were included, 166 male and 151 female samples were taken as sample. The students were also asked for their personal details like Age, Gender, No. of Siblings, Socio economic status and whether their mother is working. These details were used as demographic variables in the study.

Sampling technique

Sampling technique used for the study was convenient sampling technique.

Tools used for the study

The tools used for the study is as follows:

Helicopter Parenting questionnaire by Schifffrin *et al.*, (2013).

Parental Attachment questionnaire by Kenny (1987).

Misbehavior questionnaire was developed by the researcher, suitable for the present needs of the study.

Method of investigation

The present study was designed to be conducted on adolescents in the age group of 16 – 19 years. The data was collected from school students of 11th and 12th grade. The sample size was 350 there were dropouts in the study the final sample size was 317, 166 male and 151 female. Incomplete questionnaires were excluded, scoring and interpretation was done according to the manual.

The researcher constructed a tool for the present study; there were no tool for misbehavior, so questionnaire was constructed by the researcher for the present study. The reliability and validity was found by using test retest method, item analysis and factor analysis was also done. Negative and low correlated items were removed from the questionnaire and the final questionnaire has 29 questions. The questionnaire extracted three factors in factor analysis and the factors were named by the researcher. Face and content validity was also established for the tool. The scale was

derived on the basis of social discipline model by Dreikurs (1968). The questionnaire has a five point rating scale. The questionnaire had 39 questions initially; item analysis was done for the scale with the sample size of 40. The Cronbach's alpha score for the 39 items was .723, the 10 negatively correlated and low correlated items was removed from the questionnaire. The Cronbach's alpha for the 29 items was found to be .773.

Factor analysis was also done for the questionnaire using principle component analysis with varimax rotation to test the factor structure of 39 items of misbehavior. This solution produced seven factors with eigen values over one, but examination of the scree plot indicated that a three factor solution would be most appropriate. Then factor analysis was again done with three factors the KMO measure of sampling adequacy was .847 and Bartlett's test of sphericity was significant at .01 level. The first factor Eigen value is 6.23 with the variance of 25.5% comprises of 9 items. The second factor Eigen value is 3.1 with the variance of 10.7% and comprises of 11 items. The third factor Eigen value is 1.98 with the variance of 6.82% and this factor comprises of 9 items. The Eigen value is above one for the three factors. Three factors were loaded and the names for the factors were given by the researcher as factor 1: Inadequate Behavior comprises of items 1,

3, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28. Factor 2: Anger and Revenge comprises of items 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 29. Factor 3: Power and Control comprises of items 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

The questionnaire was given to the students in person and was given instructions to answer the questions. They were requested to fill up the questionnaire without omitting any questions, and were told it is for research purpose so the responses will be kept confidential.

Results and Discussion

This chapter deals with the research findings and its discussion.

Findings and discussion

The results of the present study indicate that there is no significant relationship between Helicopter parenting and Parental attachment. The total mean value is interpreted as average helicopter parenting, high parental attachment towards mother and average parental attachment towards father. The correlation value denotes that it is not significant. Adolescents with average helicopter parenting show high and average attachment towards their parents. This shows that average helicopter parenting has not affected the adolescent's parental attachment.

Table.1 Shows the relationship between Helicopter Parenting and Parental Attachment

VARIABLES	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	r
Helicopter parenting	62.8	11.1	.887 (NS)
Parental attachment Mother	190.8	29.4	
Parental attachment Father	183.0	30.3	.951(NS)

NS - Not Significant

N – 317

Table.2 Shows the relationship between Helicopter parenting and Misbehavior

VARIABLE	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	r
Helicopter parenting	62.8	11.1	-.205**
Misbehavior	77.6	18.7	

** Significant at 0.01 levels

Table.3 Shows the relationship between Parental attachment and Misbehavior

VARIABLE	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	r
Parental attachment mother	190.8	29.4	.172(NS)
Parental attachment Father	183.0	30.3	.254(NS)
Misbehavior	77.6	18.7	

There is a negative relationship between Helicopter parenting and Misbehavior; it is significant at 0.01 levels. Average level of helicopter parenting is related to average level of misbehavior according to the mean values. The result indicates a negative correlation which states that higher the helicopter parenting lesser will be the misbehavior of the adolescents. Over parenting, over intrusiveness and constant checking on children might help to reduce the level of misbehavior.

Even though the research review stated that children with helicopter parenting tend to show violence, depression and anxiety and also prone to maladaptive behavior, the research was all done in western culture.

The cultural difference may also be the factor for negative correlation of the variables. The results show that helicopter parenting will help to lessen or reduce misbehavior of the adolescents. Parental

attachment and misbehavior indicate non significance. Adolescents show high parental attachment towards mother and average attachment towards father, they show average misbehavior. The obtained values show that there is no relationship between the variables.

Further research

The study was restricted to 11th and 12th grade adolescents; the study did not cover the whole adolescent age group. The study did not equalize the number of male and female samples. The study did not equalize the number of samples in demographic variables. The number of dropouts can be reduced. Interventions like anger management and stress management can be given for the students that might have helped to reduce the anger and revenge levels of the students. Behavioral and cognitive behavioral therapy can help the students to deal with their misbehavior.

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