The Relationship between Family Communication Patterns, Attachment Styles and Tendency to Male Gender in High school Girls

S. Reza Fallahchai, Hosein Zainalipour, Roqaie Raeisi Shahrouyi[*]

Department of Consultant & Psychology, Faculty of Human Sciences, Hormozgan University, Bandar Abbas, Iran

ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to investigate the relationship between family communication patterns, Attachment styles, and tendency to male gender in high school girls in Bandar- Abbas in Iran. The research design was a descriptive correlation, and the study sample included 300 students were chose as the population. Data collection tools, including 4 measures of Demographic Questionnaire, The Adult Attachment Scale (AAS), Communication Pattern Questionnaire (CPQ). The Pearson correlation and multiple regression analysis were used in order to analyze data. The results showed that there was a relationship between Attachment styles and tendency to male gender in high school girls, and generally, the Attachment styles can anticipate the tendency to male gender. Moreover, there was a relationship between family communication patterns and the tendency to male gender among high school girls and in general, the communication patterns inside the family anticipate the tendency to male gender.

KEYWORDS: Interest Modes, Family Communication Patterns, High School Student.

1. INTRODUCTION

People is after satisfying or keeping the need of love and dependency, power, hobby, freedom, and survival. If people be successful to satisfy these needs, they can control their life. Sometimes, in order to satisfy their needs, people have to choose some ways that may not be efficient; in these cases they feel unhappy and do special things to reduce this unhappiness [1].

Attachment style is an effective factor in interpersonal interactions shaped as the result of relations between individual and affective faces [parents, peers and spouse), and has a significant effect on marital function and relation [2, 3]. Significant differences were found between people who had been classified as having secure attachment style, people classified as having anxious/ambivalent insecure attachment, and people classified as having avoidant insecure style [4]. George et al. characterized secure attachment as being able to maintain balance between attachment and exploratory motivational systems. Adults who displayed avoidant attachment were described as limiting, deactivating, or devaluing the importance of relationships and attachment [5]. Attachment theorists have suggested that once a child's internal working model is established, it is difficult to adjust. Thus, children interpret new experiences -in ways that are consistent with existing working models [6]. Typical behaviors and emotional features of different attachment styles develop during these distressing situations [7]. Individuals who experienced conflict have a propensity to transfer their childhood relationship models to their current situations and engage in particular behavioral prototypes as predicted by their attachment styles [8].

One of the ways for looking at a family structure is to pay attention to the communication channels through which family members are interacting with each other [9]. Family is the first grounder of children's character, values, and intellectual standards [10]. Clark and Shields define family as a legislative system that its members are continuously busy with defining and reconsidering their own communication nature definition according to their communication patterns [11]. Communication within a family is considered the most important influence on an individual's behaviors [12]. Fitzpatrick and Koerner discuss a family typology they developed based on the two communication patterns of conformity orientation and conversation orientation [13]. Fitzpatrick and Koerner introduced 4 types of family communication patterns or 4 family types based on concept-orientation and socio-orientation dimensions: the agreeing family, the pluralist family, the keeping family, and the devolving family. The agreeing family is the one which shows both high concept-orientation and socio-orientation. The pluralist family has high concept-orientation but low socio-orientation, while the keeping family has low concept-orientation but high socio-orientation. Finally, the devolving family shows both low concept-orientation and socio-orientation [13]. Fitzpatrick and Koerner bring together psychological or cognitive processes and behavioral elements in a communicational model for the family involving relational schemas. Relational schemas are cognitive frameworks for the family that contain the family's beliefs about intimacy, individuality, affection, external factors, and how the family communicates, that is, beliefs about how much it should conform to the same ideas and how much it should allow individual self-expression. These schemas influence behaviors within the family [14].

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*Corresponding Author: Roqaie Raeisi Shahrouyi (MA student). Department of Consultant & Psychology, Faculty of Human Sciences, Hormozgan University, Bandar Abbas, Iran; Email: .hanif_ebrahimi@yahoo.com

Attachment styles, communication patterns, and tendency to male gender among the high school girls are study subjects that concentrated on interpersonal behaviors through both psychological and sociological perspectives [15, 3]. Attachment styles, communication patterns are major subjects that start in the early times of childhood [16, 3]. Nevertheless, the accurate interaction and relations between attachment styles and communication patterns, and tendency to male gender among the high school girls are not known yet.

From the earliest years of childhood, children develop significant relationships with family members and, with increasing age, their peers [17]. Making friends is an essential part of life for adolescents at school. Adolescent friendships have received a great deal of attention in interdisciplinary research as an important component in adolescents' relationships [18, 19].

The formation of meaningful peer relationships is one of the developmental tasks of adolescents, which could possibly be the strongest theoretical links to attachment behavior. Peer relationships increase markedly in intensity during adolescence and in some cases in them becomes attachment relationships [20]. During development from preadolescence to adolescence, intimacy and self-disclosure become defining features of a close or best friendship [21]. Elicker et al. [22] found significant associations between infant–mother attachment and preadolescents_ friendship concepts (i.e., expectations of specific behaviors and rules within friendships). Studies observing peer interactions showed that secure infant–mother attachment quality was significantly associated with social competence, low aggressiveness, and more cooperative friendships [23].

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Demographic Questionnaire
This form was drafted by a researcher aiming at gathering information such as age, educational level, etc.

Adult Attachment Scale (AAS)
The Adult Attachment Scale (AAS) measured the adult attachment styles. AAS is the self-report that consisted of 18 items that were rated on a 7-point Likert scale. The 18 items of the AAS generate the following three scales: a) the Dependent Scale measures the extent of individual trust and dependency on others; b) the Close Scale measures feelings of comfort, closeness, and intimacy: Furthermore, c) the Anxiety Scale measures the levels of anxiety in the relationship. Shaver et al. mentioned AAS to have internal consistency (reliability alpha) coefficients of .71, .81, and .75, respectively [24]. The AAS "Close and Depend scales correlated .54 with each other; the Close and Anxiety scales correlated - .19; the Depend and Anxiety scales correlated -.37.1" Research has revealed a relation between the Close and Dependent scales [25].

Test-retest correlations between the Dependent, Close, and Anxiety Scales were reported to be 0.71, 0.62, and 0.58 respectively [26]. Also, we found the internal consistency to be 0.73 and split-half reliability coefficient as 0.67.

Communication Pattern Questionnaire (CPQ)
The Communication Pattern Questionnaire (CPQ) [26, 27] is a 35-item self-report measure that assesses the communication patterns that a couple uses during three stages of conflict. CPQ consisted of the sum of three items assessing constructive communication behaviors minus the sum of four items assessing destructive communication behaviors [21]. Christensen et al. [27] scale use a seven-point scale ranging from very unlikely (1) to very likely (7) to rate each item on the instrument. Heavey et al. [28] indicated that the reliability for the CPQ is described as alphas, which established internal consistency of sub scales [28]. The reliability is respectively mentioned for males as (0.84) and for females as (.81). Evidence specifies that the data give a strong support to reliability and validity of a sub scale of the CPQ, which is designed to capture constructiveness of communication patterns in relationships [28]. Also, we found the internal consistency to be 0.82 and split-half reliability coefficient as 0.75.

3. RESULTS

In this section, the descriptive findings of the research are presented at first. Then, findings pertaining to research hypotheses are presented in what follows. Demographic information showed that 46.3% of the samples are in the age range of 14-15, 45.4% are in the age range of 16-17, and 8.3% are 18 years old or higher. Of this total amount, 54% of them are in the first level of education, 25.7% are in the second level, 13.3% of them are in the third level, and 7% of them are in the final level. 61.3% of the samples reported the tendency to male gender and 38.8% of them didn't.

For analyzing the research questions we used multivariable regression test simultaneously and investigated the multiple relation between criterion and predicted variables by the use of this test, the predicting ability of the predicted variables in predicting the criterion variable was evaluated.

1. Is there any relationship between the family interest modes and tendency to male gender in high school girls?

Table 1. the summary of regression model of the relation between Attachment styles and tendency to male gender among the high school girls

Model	R	R²	Revised R²	Estimate Error Deviation
Secure	0.375	0.141	0.101	0.75581
Anxiety	0.352	0.124	0.103	0.82299
Avoidant	0.316	0.100	0.069	0.91555
Unorganized	0.230	0.053	0.353	0.91451

Table 2. The summary of the results of analyzing the one way variance of the relationship between Attachment styles and tendency to male gender among the high school girls

Model		The Total Squares	Freedom Degree	The Mean Squares	Fisher Statistic	Significance Level
Secure	Regression Remains Total	6.086 37.131 43.217	3 65 68	2.029 0.571	3.552	0.019
Anxiety	Regression Remains Total	11.957 84.664 96.620	3 125 128	3.986 0.677	5.884	0.001
Avoidant	Regression Remains Total	8.106 72.927 81.033	3 87 90	2.702 0.838	3.224	0.026
Unorganized	Regression Remains Total	0.327 5.854 6.182	3 7 10	0.109 0.836	0.131	0.939

Table 3. the summary of meaningful coefficients of simultaneous regression equation of the relation between Attachment styles and tendency to male gender among the high school girls.

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standard Coefficients	t	Significance level
		B	Standard Deviation	Beta		
Secure	proximity	0.470	0.208	0.268	2.264	0.027
Anxiety	Fixed	4.135	0.801		5.165	0.00
	Anxiety	0.359	0.145	0.208	2.483	0.014
	Interest	0.498	0.164	0.259	3.033	0.003
Avoidant	Fixed	8.30	1.040		7.997	0.00
	Proximity	-0.721	0.30	-0.246	-2.405	0.018
	Anxiety	-0.473	-0.222	-0.218	2.133	0.036
Unorganized		The model is not meaningful				

In order to analyze the first research question, we used the multivariable regression test simultaneously. As we see in the above table, the multiple correlation coefficients between family interest subscales and relation to the opposite sex among the high school girls in the different levels is observable in the above tables. As we see in the above table, the regression effect of family interest subscales on the variable and the relation to the opposite sex among the high school girls had been meaningful. This regression effect has been investigated in the different levels, based on Fisher, on the alpha level of 0.05.

2. Is there any relationship between family communication patterns and tendency to male gender among high school girls?

In order to analyze the second research question, we used multivariable regression test simultaneously. As we see in the above table, the multiple correlation coefficients between the scale of family communication patterns and tendency to male gender among the high school girls in the different levels, is summarized in the following table.

Table 4. the summary of regression model of the relation between family communication patterns and the tendency to male gender among high school girls.

Model	R	R²	Revised R²	Estimate Error Deviation
Family agreed	0.197	0.39	0.012	0.79243
Pluralistic	0.214	0.46	0.030	0.73545
Protective	0.634	0.0401	0.374	0.54067
laissez- faire	0.348	0.121	0.085	0.60387

Table 5. The summary of the results of analyzing the one way variance of the relationship between family communication pattern and tendency to male gender among the high school girls

Model		The Total Squares	Freedom Degree	The Mean Squares	Fisher Statistic	Significance Level
Family agreed	Regression	1.844	2			
	Remains	45.840	73	0.922	1.468	0.237
	Total	47.844	75	0.628		
Pluralistic	Regression	3.186	3			
	Remains	66.538	125	3.986	5.884	0.001
	Total	96.620	128	0.677		
Protective	Regression	8.106	3			
	Remains	72.927	87	2.702	3.224	0.026
	Total	81.033	90	0.838		
laissez- faire	Regression	0.327	3			
	Remains	5.854	7	0.109	0.131	0.939
	Total	6.182	10	0.836		

Table 6. The summary of meaningful coefficients of simultaneous regression equation of the relation between family communication patterns and tendency to male gender among the high school girls

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standard Coefficients		t	Significance Level
		B	Standard Deviation	Beta			
Family agreed	Fixed	0.47	0.208	0.268		2.26	0.027
	Conversation	0				4	
	Conformity						
Pluralistic	Fixed	4.135	0.801			5.165	0.00
	Conversation	0.359	0.145	0.208		2.483	0.014
	Conformity	0.498	0.164	0.259		3.033	0.003
Protective	Fixed						
	Conversation						
	Conformity						
Laissez-faire	Fixed						
	Conversation						
	Conformity						

In order to analyze the second research question, we used multivariable regression test simultaneously. As we see in the above table, the regression effect of subscales of family communication patterns on the variable and tendency to male gender among the high school girls had been meaningful. This regression effect has been investigated in the different levels, based on Fisher, on the alpha level of 0.05. Furthermore, the above coefficient table of regression equation shows the role of each one of predicted variables in predicting the criterion variable.

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The results of investigating the relationship between the four Attachment styles and the tendency to male gender showed that Attachment styles, in general, can predict the tendency to male gender, the higher correlation coefficient is 0.37 and its coefficient of determination is 0.14 which is related to secure style, and the lower correlation coefficient is 0.23 and its coefficient of determination is 0.05 which is related to the unorganized style. Among these three components: secure, anxiety, and avoidance, the most important role in predicting the variance belongs to the variable which is dependent to the tendency to male gender and can predict the tendency to male gender meaningfully, and there is no relationship between the tendency to male gender and unorganized components. By studying the research background we can find out that the obtained results are correspondent with the findings of Besharat [29], Bernan and Morris [30], Kirkpatrick and Shaver [31], Hazan and Shaver [32]. In fact, the secure, avoidance, and anxiety interest modes predict the tendency to male gender meaningfully. But unorganized mode has no meaningful relation with tendency. In explaining the above findings, Bowlby also described the tendency as a relation and a stable mental connection between two people. He also said that the tendency has an evolving component which can help the human survival. Tendency to make strong emotional connections to a special person is the main component of human nature [33]. In addition, the conclusions of Insured are confirmed and it is said that the early Attachment styles affect the later behavior in human life.

In investigating the second question, generally, the communication patterns inside the family predict the tendency to male gender, based on the obtained results the higher correlation coefficient is 0.63 and its coefficient of determination is 0.40 which is related to the protective pattern, and the lower correlation coefficient is 0.19 and its coefficient of determination is 0.03 which is related to the agree pattern. Among the conversation and conformity components, the conformity component has the most important role in predicting dependence variable variance. And also among these four kinds of family: the family agreed, the pluralistic family, the protective family, and the laissez- faire family, the protective and the laissez- faire families have the most important role in predicting the dependent variable variance of the tendency to male gender, and they can predict the tendency to the opposite sex meaningfully. In general, the communication patterns predict the tendency to male gender.

In explaining the above findings, Koerner and Maki [34] said that the children of the family agreed value the conversations of the family and apply the values and the ideas of the family. They even try to encourage the expression of the different ideas, and strongly insist on agreement to each other, the children in the pluralistic families in addition to respect their parents ideas, are independence and autonomous, the restrictive families insist on obedience and following the family forms and don't value the replacement of the ideas and the growth of the relationship skills, and finally, the laissez- faire families, the members of these families talk to each other rarely and don't value the existence and the identity of the family. By a detailed look at the family we can observe that how the interaction system of the family can reflect in the adolescent's issues, as far as the adolescent's problems can be an index of the family problems. A family is the first founder of personality, mental values and criteria of the children. Therefore, it can be said that in the family agreed and the pluralistic families who value the conversation and proposing the different ideas, the children will satisfy their needs in more positive ways, when they get to the adolescence, and most of their needs will be satisfied inside the family, they show the less tendency to male gender in comparison with the protective and laissez- faire families who have less desire for conversation, their children have higher tendency to the outside of the house and satisfy their needs in the negative ways.

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