

Father involvement: the role of marital adjustment, mother-adolescent relationship quality and father's level of education

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Introduction

Being a parent is an amazing role that brings with it issues such as happiness, pride and some difficulties. To overcome these difficulties requires the participation of both parents. This has caused problems for parenting and has led to dissatisfaction for mothers. In some studies, relationship quality has been reported as the best predictor of parental participation. It seems compatibility in marital relationships is one of the important factors that can affect the father involvement. From a systemic point of view, family members can influence each other. In today's Iranian society, parents are increasingly concerned about their children's academic progress. Research has shown that parental education is associated with mental health as well as children's problem-solving functions. To our knowledge, few studies have examined the link between the father's level of education and his involvement. Another aim of this study was to examine the mediating role of mother-adolescent relationship quality in the relation between marital adjustment and parental involvement.

Method

The research method is a correlational type, namely path analysis. The population of this study included all families with adolescent-boys aged 13

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to 15 in the city of Isfahan in 2018. Three hundred and six people were selected using multi-stage cluster random sampling method. To collect data Alabama Parenting Questionnaire, Dyadic Adjustment Scale, Parent-Child Relationship Scale were used. Data were analyzed by multiple regression and path analysis, using SPSS and AMOS software packages.

Results

The results showed that mother-adolescent relationship quality, marital adjustment and father's level of education have direct and positive effects on father involvement. The results indicated the mediating role of mother-adolescent relationship quality in the relationship between marital adjustment and father involvement.

Conclusion

The assumed model fitted to the data well, and the mediating role of the mother adolescent relationship quality was significant. The marital adjustment has direct and indirect effects on father involvement. Marital adjustment and parenting were closely related. It was observed that the marital adjustment is correlated with the mother-adolescent relationship quality and has been able to influence the father involvement through mother adolescent relationship quality. The present study showed that, contrary to popular belief, parents can't compensate each other's shortcomings in parenting. If mother withdraws from interaction with children and parental duties, this will lead to father's withdrawal in parental responsibilities. The path of parental education toward father involvement was significant and on the other hand, education explains part of the variance of parental involvement.

Keywords: father involvement, mother-adolescent relationship, marital adjustment, father's level of education

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