Understanding the Mediating Role of Corporal Punishment in the Association Between Maternal Stress, Efficacy, Co-Parenting and Children's Adjustment Difficulties Among Arab Mothers
Mona Khoury-Kassabri

This study, guided by the Family Systems Theory, examines the direct effect of maternal use of corporal punishment on children’s adjustment difficulties. Also, it explores whether corporal punishment serves as a mediating factor in the relationship between several maternal characteristics, marital relationships, and children’s adjustment difficulties. A total of 2,447 Arab mothers completed anonymous, structured, self-report questionnaires. The use of corporal punishment was generally strongly supported by the Arab mothers in our sample. A greater likelihood of using corporal punishment was found among mothers of boys rather than girls, among mothers with lower perceived self-efficacy to discipline children, and among mothers with a lower perception of their husbands’ participation in child-related labor. In addition, the higher a mother’s reports on disagreement with her husband about discipline methods and the stronger her level of maternal stress, the more likely she was to use corporal punishment. Corporal punishment also mediated the association between the above mentioned factors and child adjustment difficulties. Furthermore, a husband’s emotional support and family socioeconomic status were directly associated to children’s adjustment difficulties. The results of the current study emphasize the need to observe children’s development within the context of their family systems and to consider the mutual influences of different subsystems such as marital relationships and mother–child interactions. Prevention and intervention programs should raise parents’ awareness concerning the harmful effects of corporal punishment and take into account the impact of dynamic transactions of parental conflicts and disagreements regarding discipline methods on child outcomes.

Keywords: Corporal punishment, Arab mothers, Adjustment difficulties, Family Systems Theory, Parental efficacy

Prof. Mona Khoury-Kassabri
Dr. Shalhevet Attar-Schwartz
Dr. Hana Zur
School of Social Work and Social Welfare, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
Contact: monakh17@gmail.com
The Impact of the Gender of an Abusive Parent on the Adult Romantic Relationships of Children Exposed to Parental Violence: A Call for Complementary Research

Benny Bailey

Generational transmission of violence into one’s romantic relationships as an adult has been found to be one of the long-term risks for some child survivors of exposure to parental intimate partner violence (IPV). In light of the current understandings of the prevailing rates of IPV across genders, the empirical interest in the impact of the gender of an abusive parent on exposed children is not a peripheral issue. A review of the literature on a child’s exposure to IPV reveals a concentration on families with father-to-mother violence, while little is known about the impact of other patterns of family violence on children, such as both parents acting abusively or only mother-to-father abuse, whether psychological or physical. Even an exclusive consideration of the exposure of children to routine psychological abuse between parents would be significant, in light of the known high prevalence and harms of such a family climate to the exposed child. Consequently, a framework for a qualitative inquiry into the various patterns of parental abuse, and the way in which the gender of the abusive parent has had an impact in shaping one’s performance as a partner and as a parent in the child’s subsequent adult life are suggested. The research is based on what some previous longitudinal and intergenerational studies of IPV transmission have pointed out to be empirically relevant when studying children’s exposure to IPV. The study intends to add qualitative insight into the impact of gender in generational transmission of IPV, and into elements of resilience of such children survivors.

Keywords: intimate partner violence (IPV), children exposed to domestic violence, parenthood through IPV, generational transmission of IPV, parenthood and gender.

Benny Bailey, Ph.D. Haruv Institute Post Doctoral Fellow. School of Social Welfare. University of California, Berkeley

Email: bbailey@berkeley.edu
The Prevalence of Extra-Familial and Intra-Familial Sexual Abuse among Palestinian Women in Israel, throughout their Life-Span.

Muhammad M. Haj-Yahia and Heba Zedan

A cross-sectional survey was conducted among a convenience sample of 2240 Palestinian university students in Israel, which examined the prevalence of their experience with sexual abuse throughout the life span. Participants answered a self-administered questionnaire relating to their experience with sexual abuse, using a revised version of Finkelhor's measure of sexual abuse during three life stages (i.e., before age 12, between ages 12-16, and after age 16) and by three different perpetrators (i.e., father or a brother, a relative, and a stranger).

The findings revealed that 4%, 1, and 1% of the participants indicated being sexually abused by father or a brother before age 12, between ages 12 and 16, and after age 16, respectively. Overall, 4.3% of the participants revealed that they had been sexually abused by their father or a brother during any one of these three life stages. In addition, the results indicate that 18%, 8%, and 5% of the participants responded being sexually abused by a relative during the above-mentioned stages of life, respectively. Overall, 20.2% of the participants reported being sexually abused by a relative during any one of these three life stages. Furthermore, 15%, 9%, and 10% reported being sexually abused by a stranger during the three above-mentioned life stages, respectively. Overall, 22.1% of the participants reported being sexually abused by a stranger during any one of these three life stages. Moreover, 32% of the participants reported being sexually abused at least once by any one of the above mentioned three perpetrators, during any of the three life stages. The limitations of the study as well as its implications for future research are discussed.

**Key words:** Intra-familial sexual abuse, extra-familial sexual abuse, child sexual abuse.

Muhammad M. Haj-Yahia, Ph.D. Email: m.hajyahia@mail.huji.ac.il, Phone number: 972-2-5882207, and Heba Zedan, MSW, Email: Heba.zedan@mail.huji.ac.il Phone number: 972-504291200

Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel
The Psychological Consequences of the Experience of Palestinian Women in Israel with Sexual Abuse Through the Life-Span: Are they Moderated by Religiosity?

Muhammad M. Haj-Yahia and Heba Zedan

A cross-sectional survey was conducted among a convenience sample of 2240 Palestinian university students in Israel, which examined their experience with sexual abuse through the life-span and its psychological consequences. Participants answered a self-administered questionnaire relating to their experience with sexual abuse during three life stages (i.e., before the age of 12, between ages 12-16, and after the age of 16) and by three different perpetrators (i.e., father or a brother, a family relative, and a stranger). In addition, the research examined whether there is a relationship between the participants' experience with sexual abuse and several psychological consequences, and to what extent their level of religiosity moderates this relationship.

The results of the study revealed that victims of sexual abuse (by any one of the above-mentioned three perpetrators as well as at any one of the above-mentioned three life stages) reported significantly higher levels of psychological distress (as measured and reflected by levels of the following eight symptoms: somatization, psychoticism, hostility, anxiety, phobic anxiety, paranoid ideation, depression, and obsessive-compulsive) and post-traumatic stress symptoms, than did their non-abused counterparts. The results also revealed that experiencing sexual abuse by any perpetrator and at any life stage explained a significant amount of the variance in the above-mentioned psychological consequences, over and above the variance that could be attributed to the participants' level of religiosity. Nonetheless, the results indicate that among women who were sexually abused by a father or a brother, those with low levels of religiosity reported greater psychological distress than did women in high or moderate levels of religiosity. In contrast, among women who were sexually abused by a relative, those with high levels of religiosity reported greater psychological distress than did women with moderate levels of religiosity. Nevertheless, these differences were not found among women who were sexually abused by a stranger. In addition, the results indicate that among women who had experienced abuse before the age of 12: those with lower levels of religiosity reported greater psychological distress than did those with high or moderate levels of religiosity. In contrast, no differences were found among women who were sexually abused at any time when they were 12-16 years old or older than 16 years.

The limitations of the study as well as the implications of the results for future research and intervention with victims of sexual abuse are discussed.

**Key words:** Sexual Abuse, Psychological Distress, Post-Traumatic Stress Symptoms, Religiosity.
Muhammad M. Haj-Yahia, Ph.D. Email: m.hajyahia@mail.huji.ac.il, Phone number: 972-2-5882207, and Heba Zedan, MSW, Email: Heba.zedan@mail.huji.ac.il Phone number: 972-504291200

Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel