

Stepmother Rejection and Psychological Maladjustment Among Stepdaughters: Mediating Role of Social Competence

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The current study investigated mediating role of social competence between perceived stepmothers' rejection and psychological maladjustment in stepdaughters living in stepfamilies. For this purpose, sample was drawn from different private and public schools of Lahore city through purposive sampling technique. The respondents ($N = 141$) exclusively belonged to stepmother families and their age ranged from 10-14 years ($M = 12.34$, $SD = 1.01$). Stepdaughters perceived their stepmothers less rejecting and showed lower level of psychological maladjustment. Baron and Kenny (1986) approach to test mediation revealed that social competence partially mediated between stepdaughters' perceived stepmother rejection and psychological maladjustment after controlling the effect of demographics. Findings are discussed in cultural context.

Keywords. Stepmother-father families, stepmother rejection, psychological adjustment, stepdaughter-stepmother relationship