

Gender Difference in Perceived Childhood Father Rejection and Psychological Adjustment in Adulthood

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The current study investigated gender differences in perceived father rejection in childhood and psychological adjustment in adulthood. It was hypothesized that: there would be gender differences in childhood perception of father's rejection; there would be gender differences in psychological maladjustment in adulthood and there would be gender differences in psychological maladjustment of those adults who had experienced father's rejection in their childhood. Participants included 206 university students (103 males & 103 females) from different universities of Karachi selected through convenient sampling technique. To measure the perceived father's rejection in childhood, Adult Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire/Control (Adult PARQ/Control: Father Short Form, Rohner, 2005) was administered. Their psychological adjustment was measured through Adult Personality Assessment Questionnaire (Adult PAQ, Rohner, 2005). Significant gender differences in perceived paternal rejection were found. Further, only on the dimension of aggression and hostility there were significant gender differences which was more for males. No significant gender differences were seen psychological maladjustment. Except for emotional instability which was more in females, there were no significant gender differences on other six aspects. Overall, it is observed that although there appears to be gender differences in parental handling of their children nevertheless the psychological maladjustment is alike in male and female adults.

Keywords: Gender, father rejection, childhood, psychological maladjustment, adults