

IMPACT OF PARENTAL CONFLICTS AND PARENTAL SUPPORT ON CHILDREN'S LIFE SATISFACTION MEDIATING ROLE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING

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ABSTRACT

Children's well-being and social behavior can be severely affected by inter-parental disputes. This study investigates whether parental support has a positive effect on a child's happiness in life and whether there is a connection between peer problems and rising inter-parental conflict. A child learns from watching his parents interact with one another. Because he/she is influenced by the culture around him/her, he/she may, during his/her life, go through several different transformations on multiple levels, physically, psychologically, socially as well as emotionally. Children's well-being and social behavior can be severely affected by inter-parental conflict. Psychological well-being mediates this association. To conduct mediation studies, data for 150 children ranging between the ages of 11 and 18 were collected from various schools and colleges. The study shows that parental support raises life happiness while higher inter-parental conflict is highly linked to lower psychological well-being and life satisfaction in children. The findings also imply that psychological well-being mediates the relationship between inter-parental conflict and children's life satisfaction, suggesting that as inter-parental conflict increases, parents become less affectionate and communicate negatively with their children, which lowers their social well-being. This paper contributes by highlighting the critical role of familial relationships in shaping children's psychological development and life satisfaction. The research took a multi-pronged strategy, combining a descriptive survey method with co-relational analysis. An in-depth investigation into the matter has been carried out making use of a wide variety of databases covering the years 2012 through 2022.

Keywords: parental support, parental conflict, psychological well-being, life satisfaction, familial dynamic

INTRODUCTION

This research focuses on the acts and behaviors of parents that serve as models for their children. Conflicts between couples can have either a beneficial or harmful impact on the well-being of their children. The goal of this research is to identify the fact that parental actions have a major impact on the psychological health of their children (Lawrence, 2022). Such disagreements do not just have an impact on the partners, but also on the development of their children (Luckey, 1960).

By reviewing the increasing incidences of marital abuse and its consequences on a child's development, it is clear that children who lived with their parents and faced high levels of conflicts between their parents are at serious psychological risk including health problems and future mental illness. This phase also represents a period of social - emotional development, which includes mental health aspects. This highlights the importance of mental health issues in the world's teenager population. Children and teens are at risk and face numerous challenges - academically, physically, and in their social relationships between family and friends. These

challenges are compounded by their struggles with emotional maturity (Adare et al., 2021).

Psychological well-being does not only refer to a state of being free of psychological issues; it also refers to people's ability to recognize themselves positively in relation to others, with sustainable mastery, independence, life objectives, and feelings that contribute to healthy growth (Majani et al., 2022).

In summary, there is sufficient evidence to suggest that conflict between parents has a negative impact on the mental health outcomes of young people (both children and adolescents). As a result, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) included the diagnostic condition known as "child affected by parental relationship distress" (CAPRD). Taking into consideration the fact that a child may display heightened behavioral, cognitive, affective, or physical symptoms as a direct result of being exposed to parental relationship distress, including but not limited to a child's reaction to parental relationship and partner distress, parental partner brutality, acrimonious divorce, and/or unfair let down of one parent by another, it is essential to emphasize that a child may react to parental relationship and relationship distress, and parenting practices relationship violence (Milicev et al., 2022).

Research Rationale

The exploration of the elements and processes that moderate the direct effect that parental conflict has on children is needed. It is crucial to make more specific assessments of the aspects of conflict, and it is necessary to assess the relationship between marital conflict and child behavior issues. Other potential factors that are significant also need to be identified (Schoppe, 2022). Better understanding of the role that the family environment plays will help parents and practitioners who work with families to support the positive social and emotional development of children. Family dynamics can have a significant impact on a child's social and emotional ability, and a good understanding of the role that the family environment plays will help parents (Pawl, 2022).

Aims and Objectives

The aim of this research is to identify how parental conflicts and parental support impact a child's psychological well-being. Identifying the mediating role of child's psychological well-being between

parental conflicts, parental support, and life satisfaction will also be considered.

Significance of the Study

- the impact of parental conflicts on a child's psychological well being
- the impact of parental support on a child's psychological well being
- the impact of psychological well-being on a child's life satisfaction
- to identify the mediating role of a child's psychological well-being between parental support and life satisfaction
- To identify the impact of the mediating role of child's psychological well-being between parental conflicts and life satisfaction of the children

Research Questions

- What is the role of parental conflicts on a child's psychological well-being?
- What is the role of parental support on a child's psychological well-being?
- What is the role of psychological well-being on a child's life satisfaction?
- Is there a mediating role of a child's psychological well-being between parental support and life satisfaction?
- Is there a mediating role of a child's psychological well-being between parental conflicts and life satisfaction of the children?

Description of Variables

Parental Support

Support from one's own parents is an essential component of good parenting; it plays a part in the development of concepts such as nurturing, attachment, acceptance, coherence, and love (Jacob & Leonard, 1994)

Parental Conflict

"Parent-offspring conflict (POC) is an expression coined in 1974 by Robert Trivers. It is used to describe the evolutionary conflict arising from differences in best parental investment (P.I.) in an offspring from the standpoint of the parent. Parental conflict is not only a disagreement of opinion, "instead, it is a succession of incidents that have been

handled poorly, which has resulted in the marriage connection being severely damaged.

Life Satisfaction and Psychological Well-being

Life satisfaction might be summed up as a person's overall sense of pleasure, contentment, and satisfaction with their life and the things they do (Diener et al., 1985). The method in which people express their emotions, sensations, and moods reflects their level of life satisfaction (L.S). Psychological well-being positive relationships with other people, a sense of autonomy and control over one's life, a sense of purpose and meaning in one's life, and personal growth and development are the components that make up psychological well-being. The achievement of a condition of equilibrium, which is affected by both demanding and rewarding life events, is necessary for the attainment of psychological well-being (Ryff, 1989)

Literature Review

The literature for this research was gathered from online databases such as Google Scholar, Research Gate, as well as the HEC digital library and Pakistan Research Repository (Amburgey, 2005).

"Parental acts towards a child, such as admiring, encouraging, and offering physical affection, suggests to the youngster that he or she is welcomed and loved," is one definition of "parental support". Numerous studies have investigated the connections between children's ideas about their own levels of self-efficacy and the careers that they plan to pursue and their impressions of the support they get from their parents (Diemer, 2007,98).

Navarro, Flores, and Worthington investigated. Children's impressions of the assistance they received from their Mexican families. A study was conducted with children from American middle schools. It was discovered that both boys' and girls' sense of parental support was found to be a significant predictor of scientific self-efficacy. In a related case, research was carried out with the participation of African American pupils in the ninth grade, Gushue, and according to observations made by Garcia et al. (2012), the role that families and parents play is one of the aspects that can have an effect on the psychological well-being of adolescents.

Marriage between parents is generally beneficial to the health and happiness of children (Ribar, 2015). This is due to the fact that married couples are better

able to provide for one another financially, engage in more social activities as a unit, and maintain a more stable relationship with one another as a result of their marriage commitments (Daniel, Shek & Sun, 2014).

Interactions between parents, as well as parental temper, influence and behavior can directly interfere with the outcomes of children. According to the spillover hypothesis, when parents argue with one another, it can lead to negative feelings in the parents, which can then lead to more negative interactions between the parents and their children, such as yelling, scolding, or criticizing the children. This, in the end, leads to unfavorable outcomes for children (Bandura, 1969)

It was discovered that the level of psychological well-being of teenagers is affected by factors such as the state of the parents' marriage, the functioning of the family, the interactions between the children and the parents, and communication patterns. The family is an essential setting for the growth of children's social competence, and it plays a significant role in this process. Early on in life, children can gain a foundation for how to interact socially by the experiences they have within their families. Conflict between married parents or between parents or other parental figures who live with the child and share a love connection, for example, can have a significant impact on the child's ability to interact well with other people. Adolescent well-being centered on the support provided by parents highlighted the role of parental reactions to requests for help made by adolescents. Parenting that provided direct assistance, including specific recommendations or pointers, and had youngsters who report higher levels of L.S, while their parents report lower levels of L.S., were controlling or too judgmental of their child's problems, which had a detrimental effect on the child influenced their L.S. In addition to this, L.S. levels were higher in teenagers. Happy with the informal assistance and Support that their parents provide for them therefore, the mediating role of Psychological well-being Teenagers who are exposed to supportive attitudes from their parents had lower rates of depression, higher levels of self-esteem, and more life satisfaction (Cherry, 2021).

Several studies have found that inter-parental conflict and children's social well-being are linked. This refers to a wide range of social behaviors displayed by youngsters within the framework of the school setting. Parental conflict, particularly marital

conflict and intimate partner violence between parents, have proven to be predictors of decreased pragmatic conduct, weaker social skills, aggressive behavior, impaired self-control, lesser collaboration, and loneliness in children. These findings are consistent with previous research (Auersperg et al., 2019).

Children who see their parents engage in frequent conflicts at home are more likely to believe that conflict is a suitable form of social behavior and that they should model their own behavior after that of their parents when they are at school. As a result, these children are likely to get into more arguments with their classmates. After considering this line of reasoning, the first hypothesis that will be investigated in this study. There are a few different schools of thought about the reasons why marital discord may influence the growth of children's social competence. First, according to social learning theory, conflicts themselves can serve as a model for youngsters in how to resolve conflicts and engage in problem-solving procedures. This is one of the many implications of the theory (McLeod, 2016)

Method

The research addressed four main research questions related to child psychological health and life satisfaction and how parental conflicts and parental support impact these two. It is hypothesized that parental support affects children positively, while parental conflicts have negative effects on children.

When doing research using a quantitative technique, accurately quantifying the variables is critical for producing objective findings. These are the measures that were utilized for this study. Scales used in this study included:

- The Satisfaction with Life Scale
- Child Well-being Scale
- The Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale (CPIC)
- Perceived Parental Support

SPSS and Smart PLS were utilized as computer programs. For the descriptive analysis, Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used; nevertheless, Smart PLS was utilized for the hypothesis testing via method of measurement and bootstrapping for structural model. Analyses such as descriptive analysis, correlational analysis, reliability, validity, direct and indirect effects, path coefficients, and mediation models were carried out because of applying these.

The research took a multi-pronged strategy, combining descriptive survey methodology with correlational analysis. An in-depth investigation into the matter has been carried out making use of a wide variety of databases and search engines covering the years 2012 through 2022.

Results

The findings of the research are based on statistical analysis and demographics. Common factor analyses, internal consistency as measured by Cronbach's alpha, and the components of the measurement model were all employed. Testing of hypotheses and outcomes, as well as studies of mediation and a summary of hypotheses are included in the structural model.

The total sample includes 155 respondents. Out of these 155 respondents, 48 (31.0%) were male and the remaining 107 (66.0%) were females. Respondents are explored about their age. Age is further divided into age groups. i.e. below 18 years, 12-18 years.

Conceptual Framework

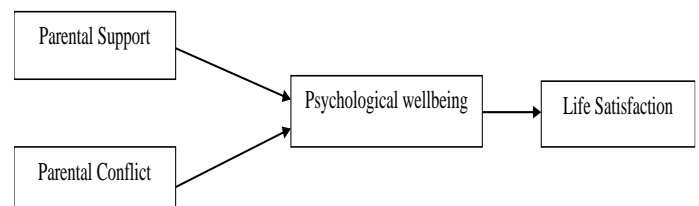


Table 1: Descriptive of Demographic Variables

Variable	Category	Frequency	% Of sample	Mean (S.D)	Skewness	Kurtosis
Gender	Female	107	66.0%	17.3290	-2.273	5.713
	Male	48	31.0%			
	Total	155	100			
Age (In years)	12.00	3	1.9%	1.6903	-.831	-1.326
	14.00	1	.6%			
	15.00	12	7.7%			
	16.00	12	7.7%			
	17.00	22	14.2%			
	18.00	105	67.7%			
	Total	155	100%			
Institute	School	36	23.2%	1.7677	-1.281	-3.65
	College	119	76.8%			
	Total	155	100.0			

Note. N= 155

Table 2: Results of Cronbach Alpha

Variable	Cronbach Alpha
Parental Support	0.695
Parental Conflict	0.941
Psychological Well Being	0.871
Life Satisfaction	0.765

Hypotheses Testing (Direct Effect)

Finally, hypotheses are tested in the structural model. Results of each hypothesis are presented below:

H1: Parental Support is positively related with a child’s psychological well-being. It is hypothesized that parental Support has significant relationship with psychological well-being. Results revealed that $\beta = 0.37, p < 0.00$ which showed that Parental Support has positive impact on psychological well-being.

H2: Parental conflict is negatively related to child’s psychological well-being. It is hypothesized that

parental conflict has significant relationship with psychological well-being. Results revealed that $\beta = 0.49, p < 0.00$ which showed that Parental conflict has negative impact on psychological well-being.

H3: A child’s psychological well-being is positively related to life satisfaction. It is hypothesized that child’s psychological well-being has significant relationship with life satisfaction. Results revealed that $\beta = 0.66, p < 0.00$ which showed that Child’s psychological well-being has positive impact on life satisfaction.

Table 3: Hypothesis Results

Hypothesis	Path	Path Coefficient	Standard Error	t-Statistics	p Value	Decision
H1	P-S → Psy-WB	0.528	0.057	9.280	0.000	Accepted
H2	P-C → Psy-WB	-0.139	0.060	2.309	0.021	Accepted
H3	Psy-WB → LS	0.550	0.060	9.210	0.000	Accepted

Note. Acronyms: Parental Support, Parental Conflict, Psychological Wellbeing, Life Satisfaction

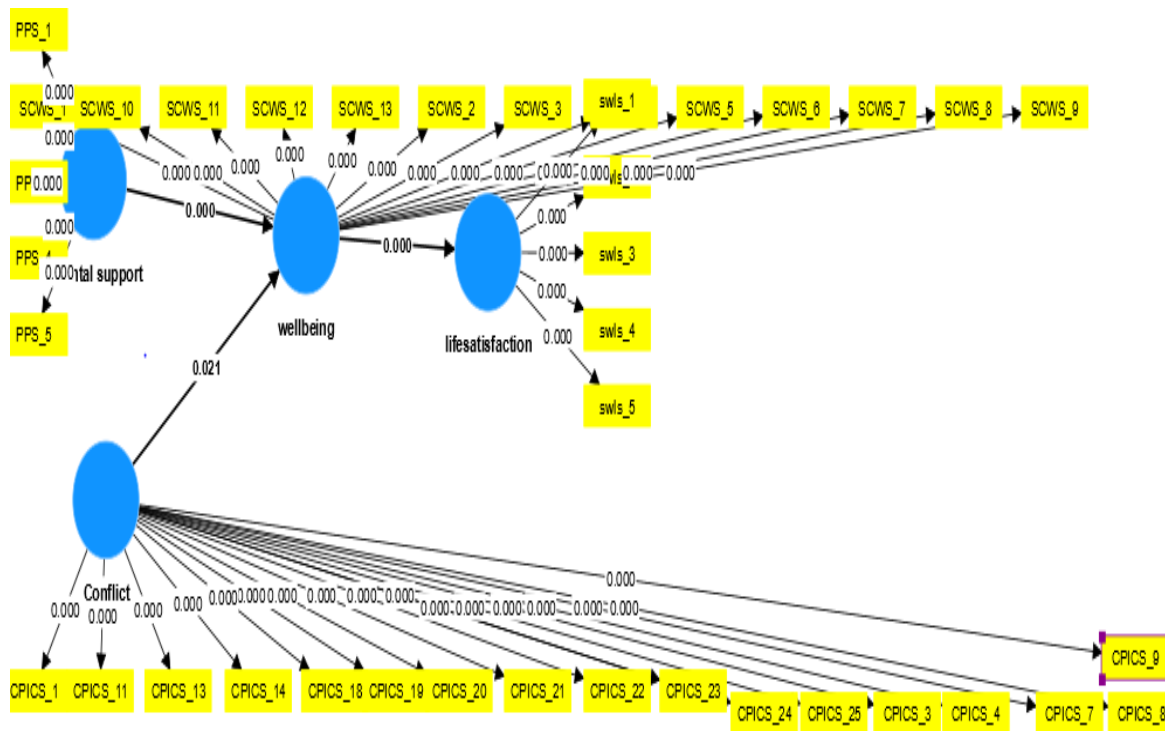


Figure 1. Semantic view of Smart-pls Structural Model

Table 4: Mediation Analysis (PPS → SCWS → SWLS)

Directions	Path	Effects	P-Value	S.D	t value = Indirect effect/S.D	P value & VAF
PPS→SCWS	P12	0.528(Direct Effect)	0.000 Significant	0.057	9.280	0.581 (Significant) 49 % Partially mediation exists.
PPS→SWLS	P13	0.291(Direct Effect)	0.000 Significant	0.052	5.582	
SCWS→SWLS	P23	0.550(Direct Effect)	0.000 Significant	0.060	9.210	
PPS→SCWS→SWLS		0.291(Indirect Effect)		0.052	5.582	

It is significant to check out the strength of mediation. The strength of mediation is computed via variance accounted for (VAF), as suggested by Hair et al. (2014). Table 4.14 reveals that 49 % of the effect of psychological well-being (SCWS) on Life

satisfaction is explained via parental Support. Since the value of VAF is between 49 %, psychological well-being partially mediates the relationship between parental Support and life satisfaction.

Table 5: Mediation Analysis (CPIC → SCWS → SWLS)

Directions	Path	Effects	P-Value	S.D	t value= Indirect effect/S.D	P value & VAF
CPIC→SCWS	P12	-0.139(Direct Effect)	0.021 Significant	0.035	2.309	0.151 (Sig)
CPIC→SWLS	P13	-0.076(Direct Effect)	0.029 Significant	0.060	2.178	49%. Partially mediation exists.
SCWS→SWLS	P23	0.546(Direct Effect)	0.000 Significant	0.060	9.280	
CPIC→SCWS→SWLS		-0.076(Indirect Effect)		0.035	2.178	

It is significant to check out the strength of mediation. The strength of mediation is computed via variance accounted for (VAF), as suggested by Hair et al. (2014). Table 4.15 reveals that 49% of the effect of psychological well-being (SCWS) on life

satisfaction is explained via parental conflict. Since the value of VAF is between 49%, psychological well-being partially mediates the relationship between parental conflict and life satisfaction

Summary of the Hypothesis Testing for all of the Study Variables

Hypothesis	Statement	Result
H ₁	Parental Support is positively related with child psychological well-being	Accepted
H ₂	Parental conflict is negatively related to child psychological well-being	Accepted
H ₃	Child's psychological well-being is positively related to life satisfaction	Accepted
H ₄	Children's Psychological well-being will mediate the relationship between parental Support and life satisfaction of children	Accepted (Partial Mediation)
H ₅	Children's psychological well-being will mediate the relationship between parental conflict and life satisfaction of children	Accepted (Partial Mediation)

Discussion

The study explores the concept that there is a correlation between parental support and the psychological well-being of teenagers. In this study, positive aspects of support were measured by parental support and life satisfaction. The level of teenagers' positive psychological well-being was assessed by their life satisfaction. According to the findings, the weighted mean association between high psychological well-being in teenagers and life satisfaction quality is positive and significant.

The study finds an association between low levels of life satisfaction and poor levels of psychological well-being in teenagers. Negative aspects of life satisfaction were evaluated based on this factor: inter-parental conflict. The direction of the link between low levels of life quality and low levels of psychological well-being in teenagers was

significant and negative, according to the weighted mean of the direction of the relationship.

The researcher proposes that psychological well-being has a beneficial impact on the extent to which one is satisfied with their life. It should come as no surprise that a healthy construct of well-being is a predictor of improved health outcomes and lower levels of psychological distress. The effect of parental support on changes in children's life satisfaction, the mediation analyses found that psychological well-being was a particularly significant mediator. The children's perceptions indicate that parental support improves their children's well-being and that automatically improves life satisfaction.

In summary the research highlights the significance of the effect of the frequency of inter-parental conflict on changes in children's life satisfaction; the mediation analyses found that psychological well-being was a particularly significant mediator. This

study recognizes the role impacts of inter-parental conflict on children's well-being and is supported by these findings. They are in excellent agreement with the theory's justifications.

Conclusion

The conclusion of the research study states that there is a relationship between the complex links of adolescent happiness, psychological health, interparental conflict, and parental support. Research continually shows how important parental support is for adolescents' psychological health and sense of fulfillment in life. Good parent-child relationships actively support a teen's sense of well-being while also reducing the risks to their mental health. Conversely, research shows that inter-parental conflict negatively impacts children's psychological health and life happiness. The emotional security theory and other ideas are supported by this research, which emphasizes the significance of parental roles in influencing a child's mental health and life happiness.

This research underscores the importance of parental roles in shaping a child's mental health and life satisfaction, supporting theories like emotional security theory. Furthermore, it points to the necessity of adopting a family-wide perspective in understanding and addressing the impacts of family dynamics on child development. The research answers the research questions that interventions aimed at enhancing parental support and reducing marital conflict could be pivotal in promoting healthier psychological outcomes in children.

Limitations

The limitations of the research include that it would also be beneficial to investigate the impacts of persistently prominent levels of parental conflict on children. This research focused solely on the occurrence of conflicts over its whole. According to the findings of several research studies, children's emotional and behavioral issues are exacerbated not just by the frequency of arguments between their parents but also by the way those arguments are resolved and by the hatred that exists between those parents (Bi et al., 2018).

Implications

A family must be properly investigated for there to be any hope of doing fruitful research on the consequences of marital conflict on children. The message from this body of work is that the study of other family processes, such as parenting, should consider the functioning (or dysfunction) of adult relationships that potentially impact the children, and that they should do so at a level of sophistication that does justice to the operating processes.

The message of this body of work is that the study of other family processes, such as parenting, ought to consider the functioning (or dysfunction) of adult relationships that potentially affects the children.

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