RESEARCH ARTICLE

IMPACTS OF PARENTAL CONFLICT ON THEIR FEMALE CHILD

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	Parental conflict distracts the task of parenting. Tribal family system involves with biological parents in parenting. The study is conducted in Quetta, Balochistan in order to find out the behavior of parents, the role of family and the behavior of female child influenced by parental conflict. Total hundred girls from twelve to eighteen years old are taken to find the response or data from two towns. The data reveals that traditional system of paternal in-laws involved in the mother's role of familial taskscauses parental conflict. Female child is ignored as well as scolded by their parents therefore feels sadness and develops ignoring attitude towards her parents that leads to less parent child attachment.

INTRODUCTION

A family is considered as a major agent of socialization to help the individuals to learn the cultural values, social norms and other aspects of personality to develop their social identity. All these variables are associated with good outcome from parental support, parental relation and affection towards the children (Hildebrand., 2000). These outcomes can be observed in individuals from infancy to adolescence and make them to compete in cognitive, social and moral skill development among their peer group (Thomas and Boyd, 1978). On the contrary, lack of parental support and relationship to their children is associated with developmental behavioral problems such as aggression towards other children, withdrawal delinquency, learning disabilities and emotional problems (Broderick, 1992). In traditional society care and maintenance of kin ties seems to be assigned disproportionately to the female's role, so it is not surprising that most of the strain in in-law's relationship falls on women. Apparently the most difficult experience is the experience of wife with her husband's mother (Duvall, 1954). Although husband's mother has a hold over total family member, after the marriage of her son, she feels insecure about her authority that it is going to be divided between her and her daughter in-law. This strain of control creates conflict between new comer and in-law's relationship. Her performance is critically observed in cooking, housekeeping, child rearing aspects and minor mistakes facilitating several comments to destroy husband's wife relationship. One of the

parental conflicts can be caused when individuals do not respect each other's limits and priorities. The deeds that are disliked by others are not fulfilling the promises without any reason, breaking the boundary of each other intentionally, often arguing, lack of constructive discussions between couple, and badly behaving with family members due to their temper, emotional state or unequal implementation of family system (Jhonson, 2005). People may have disputes when they try to prove themselves better than each other which becomes matter of their false ego. Other reasons of conflict are external relations, use of drugs, alcohol, studies and job even religion is considered as a reason of conflict. Screaming and scolding cannot work if they remain calm. Other people around them will also be relaxed and problems can easily be solved. The conflict arises when misunderstanding develops between parents. They have their own ideas and perceptions about each other by doing this they come to the untrue and incorrect conclusions. Parental conflict can damage the lives of children in many aspects like mental health, studies, biological health and decreases the confidence of the children & kills the sense of competition. (Amato & Rogers, 1997). It can create different kinds of phobias and psychological disorders in the children which can be destructive for the personality of the children. Parental conflicts and disputes can be associated with children's psychological regulations, biological outcomes, such as early timings of periods in girls, sleeping problems, and other physical illnesses. This process brings many changes and creates disturbance in the life of the children as well as parents. Parental emotions, behaviors and contact with their children are influenced by this matter. The prolonged conflicts between parents can be damaging for children because they can alter the

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psychology of a child who can suffer from restlessness, bad behavior, insomnia, aggression, grief, inferiority complex etc. A family that should be a peaceful pleasant and calm place turns into a chaotic depressed disturbed and uncertain area where children feel insecure and unsafe. Issue of parental conflict puts more stress on children. When parents have fights they keep their children in difficult and impossible positions. Both parents not only fight with each other but they deteriorate the personalities of their children. Young kids feel shame among their peer groups and they develop a sense of not belonging from intact families. Because of these conflicts children feel that they are dropped out of the social fabric and they do not belong to their own home anymore which is not good for their future lives (Ahrons, 2004). Being parents their standard should be higher which can help them to realize that they are socializing their children (Adams, 1985) to satisfy their personal ego. Their sacred mission should be limited to give a safe and secure environment to their children.

Even at the time of difficulty and storm of their conflict, they should hide their children under the shade of love, confidence, and safety. Their internal flames of hatred and revenge should be kept inside and prevent their children to be burnt by this fire. There is convincing evidence that general poor marital satisfaction is co related with negative child conduct problem. Recently research has been shifted away from the global construct of marital adjustment to look at the specific aspects of marital functioning that are linked to child outcome. Particularly, the role played by the parents' open conflict, such as the expression of spousal physical violence, frequent verbal aggression, rearing disagreement has been repeatedly implicated as a key component associated with children's aggressive behavior and emotional problems. Observational studies & experimental work analyses provide the evidence of disturbed children whenever they observe inter adult verbal anger and violence. J.s Coming has suggested that children become sensitized to conflict as a result of repeated exposure to parental fights therefore they are more prone to emotional and behavioral dysregulation (i.e greater disturb anger).

Background of the Study

In Quetta city, the traditional societies reside and the marriage is highly valuable traditional norm for adult individuals. Marriages are arranged in such societies (Ghimire DJ, 2006) either the families are educated or uneducated. Mostly these marriages are successful (Dommaraju P, 2011) despite of that urbanization and education play a vital role in bringing social change (Axinn WG, 2001) some mismatched couples live their lives by compromising for themselves and marital life. Taking arguments, blaming and shouting are the normal routine in their life eventually they are paying responsibilities of parenting.

Focus of the Study

The study is undertaken on those children who observed more or less parental conflict to find out the behavior of female child due to parental conflict. The study also focuses on traditional family system involved in parental conflict and behavior of parent during fighting.

Objectives of the Study

- To know the traditional family system appeals to parental conflict.

- To know the psychological effects of parental conflict on female child.

Hypotheses

H_o1: Patriarchal authority is associated with parental conflict.
H_o2: Parent's attitude is influenced by marital conflict.
H_o3: Child's behavior is associated with Parental conflict.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study has employed survey method by using Quantitative approach from twenty unions of two towns, Zarghoon Town and Chilton Town of Quetta city, Balochistan.

Sampling and Procedure

The random sampling has been selected to seek out information from educated girls with an age of 12 to 18 years old. Total hundred girls have been selected from the towns for the study to provide information about parental conflict and their behavior during conflict as well as to give the response about themselves. Total thirty-three structured questions have been prepared for measuring response for the data.

Analysis

The data has been collected from the 12 to 18 years old girls who observe more or less parental conflict commonly. The demographic data has been acquired from six varied personal questions and other twenty-seven questions related to study were asked to measure the response about marital conflict and its impact on child. The responses have been tested through chi-square and ANOVA, the level of significance is $0.05(^* = 0.05, ^{**} = 0.010, ^{***} = 0.001)$.

RESULTS

Traditional System intervenes in Parenting. Mother's role and relative or in-Law's interference is calculated, 46% with in working and household mother's role, highly in-law's interference in 37% of household mother's role by parental in-law's interference $X^2 = 16.972$, p= 0.000^{***}. 35% respondent's both parents involved in decision making. In patriarchal system, the strong hold of family decision or final decision of each family matters has taken by male being husband, father or son. The variables are calculated, M=2.22, std= 0.78, df= 1, p= 0.024^{**}.

Table 1. Patriarchal authority is associated with parental conflict

Characteristics	Chi-square Value	P value
Mother's Role & Decision making in family	5.796	0.055
Mother's Role & Relative/ In-law's interference	16.972	0.000***
Mother's Role & Father's Interest in Family Matters	10.225	0.001***
P=($^* = 0.05, ^{**} = 0.010 ^{***} = 0.001$).		

Conflicts arise from mother's shouting, 30% of the respondent's viewed that she was responsible to start the fight and 52% respondents viewed that end of fight was also initiated by her. The significant association is calculated $X^2 = 11.89$, p=0.008^{**}, and F= 5.924 p= 0.017^*. Parent's behavior has been observed towards their female child. 52% of the

respondents viewed that parents ignored the children after fight and 42% of the respondents said that they shouted on them. X^2 =6.352, p=0.042*, If child does mistake during or after parent's fight, 50% observed scolding and 47% responded that they were counseling by their parents for their mistake X^2 =6.06, p=0.048*, and F= 5.775 p= 0.018*.

Table 2. Parent's attitude is influenced by marital conflict.

Characteristics	Chi-square Value	P value	F value	P value
According to child who is responsible for parents fight	11.895	0.008**	5.924	0.017*
Parent's fight and by whom it ends	17.935	0.000***	21.418	0.000***
Parent's fight and parent's behavior towards child	10.225	0.001***		
Behavior of parents towards child's mistake	6.06	0.048*	5.775	0.018*

P=(* = 0.05, ** = 0.010*** = 0.001).

Child's behavior is associated by parental conflict, 53% of the respondents said they felt sadness due to parental conflict, F= 5.489 p= 0.021*. Child's response has been observed by their views, 36% of the respondents ignored the parents, 29% engaged in other activities after the parental conflict and 27% discussed the matter of conflict to the siblings where 8% of the respondents discussed with their friends, X^2 =11.21, p=0.011*, and F= 8.053 p= 0.000***.

Table 3. Parent's attitude is influenced by marital conflict

Characteristics	Chi-square Value	P value	F value	P value
Parent's fight and behavior of child	6.163	0.187	5.489	0.021*
Child's response after parent's fight	11.21	0.011*	8.053	0.006**
Child's action during parent's fight	11.818	0.019*	7.225	0.008**

P=(* = 0.05, ** = 0.010*** = 0.001).

DISCUSSION

Patriarchal authority and mother's role

Mother's role is very crucial in family's development and child's socialization (Bryan Strong, 2011). House-keeping, child rearing even relationship of husband and wife is highly influenced by the relatives or the in-laws where particular family lives and settled. Mostly Pakistani family's settlement is patrilocal, the new-wed couple lives in the house of male's family. The roles of females being a daughter in-law or mother's role (Renzetti, 2003, 5th ed.) is controlled by male or his parental family mostly in the hand of mother's in-law even the daughter in law relates to working and non-working profession (Aldous, 1978). Although this family system is supposed to help in various family crises such as illness, death, unemployment and so on. Mother in-law promotes various gender unequal issues when parents socialize their children. Paternal family relatives facilitate male child providing him better food, cloth and more pocket money even decision related to child's schooling is also influenced due-to gender discrimination (Kortenhaus, 1993). A mother has love, sympathy and affection for each child equally. Interference in unequal treatment of child socialization creates conflict among parents.

Parental conflict and Behavior of Parents

The attitude of mother (Sheppard, 1988) in parental conflict is more responsible than father because she is more likely to initiate discussion of contested familial issues (Bryan Strong, 2011). Result revealed that father less initiates the parental conflict than mother because she is more emotional. Mother takes first step to overcome or to end the conflict, she plays expressive role in family environment. Ignoring the child's place by the parents are at risk of displaying the insensitive patterns of parenting that contribute to insecure attachment (Radke-Yarrow, 1985).Girls are very sensitive (Fagot, 1992) and emotional, insecure attachment with parents by ignoring her, enforces to flee from family environment.

Parental conflict is associated with child's behavior

Parental conflict may contribute to high risk of depression, low quality of relationship and its outcome related to individual's mental and physical health and child's wellbeing (Fincham, 1999). Data revealed that girls had ignored the parents who were involved in conflict and sadness arisen due to parent's attitude towards conflict. This behavior leads less warmth, insecurity, lack of intimacy and poor parent child attachment (Katz., 2002). Parents do not cuddle and talk to children and do not engage them in healthy activities that nourish the child development.

Conclusion

Conflict is common and inevitable but for the parental conflict, it can be said that the conflicts which are less extreme in nature refresh the interpersonal relationship. The worst conflict between parents deteriorates their relationship and distracts from parenting. The witness of common parental fight like shouting, blaming, hitting, pushing, punching and kicking the other partner in front of the children develops the disorder in their personality. Their children feel insecure and less attachment with them. Parents should use the conflict as a way to build, strengthen and deepen the parental relationship in order to reinforce the role model for their children.

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