

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PERSONALITY DIFFERENCES BElWEEN ORPHANS AND NON ORPHANS OF LAHORE

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## ABSTRACT

**OBJECTIVE**

The present research aimed at investigating the personality differences between institutionalized orphans (10), non institutionalized orphans (NIO) and non orphan (NO)in adolescence.

### DESIGN

Ex Post Facto Research Design

### PLACEANDDURATIONOFSTUDY

The study was conducted in 5 orphanages and 12 schools of Lahore in duration of sixmonths.

### SUBJECTS AND METHODS:

Thesample consistedof 240adolescents aged between 13 to 19 years; divided into three groups, namely: Non orphans (n=80); Institutionalized orphans(n=80) and Non institutionalized orphans (n=80). Non probability purposivesamplingtechnique was used.Non orphansand non institutionalized orphans were drawn from twelve different schools and institutionalized orphans were drawn from five orphanages of Lahore, Pakistan. Tools used for assessment were Demographic Questionnaire and Child Personality Assessment Questionnaire (PAQ). Data was analyzed using One way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), Least Significant Difference (LSD) Post Hoc and Descriptive Statistics using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

### RESULTS

Findings revealed that there is a significant difference in Hostility and World View of institutionalized orphans, non institutionalized orphans and non orphan adolescents. Whereas, there is no significant difference in Dependency, SelfEsteem, Self Adequacy, Emotional Responsivenessand Emotional Stability among the threegroups.

## CONCLUSION

The findings of this research will promote understanding of the personality development and problems of adolescents living in orphanages and those living with singleorbothparents.

## KEYWORDS

Personality traits,self esteem,orphans,adolescents

### INTRODUCTION:

According to Merriam Webster Dictionary' orphan isa child deprived by death of one or usually both parents. A report of United Nations Children's Fund 2 suggested that due to large population of Asia, there is a large number of orphans. According to statistics by UNICEF, there are currently 148 million orphans.It is estimated that by 2015,the number of orphaned children willstill be tremendously high. Orphan hood often results in loss of family income, poorer health andemotional problems.It may also disturb family network and addsfurther responsibilitiesfor familymembersandcaretakers'.

The type of care received after becoming an orphan has significant impact on the development of the orphan. Institutionalized orphanages are the most common care system throughout the world for the orphans. Ahmad, Qahar, Siddiq,Majeed,Rasheed,Jabar,andKnorring 4concluded that childrenliving in orphanages had more mental health problems as compared with children in foster care. A research was conducted in an orphanage of Kashmir, Pakistan to investigate the psychiatric disorders in children living in orphanages in which high prevalence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Mood Disorder and Conversion Disorder was reported in children living in orphanages'. Research suggests that prevalence of behavioral problems among children in orphanage of Karachi was 50%. While prevalence among SOS village children was51.6% and49%among conventional orphanage'.

Most of studies revealed that orphans suffer higher level of psychosocial problems than their non-orphan peers. In particular, maternal and double orphans are more likely to experience behavioural and emotional difficulties, sufferabusesand low rateof trusting relationships'.Zhao,Li,Barnett, Lin,Fang & Zhao,' conducted a study on orphan children psychological wellbeing in China. Their finding revealed that orphan and vulnerable children showed lower psychological wellbeing thancomparison groups.

Tsegaye 'found that orphan had low psychological wellbeing whereas the non-orphan had high psychological wellbeing. In this study orphans were found to have a significantly lower psychological wellbeing as compared to the non-orphan children. Results revealed that grade level was significantly and positively correlated with psychological wellbeing whereas parental status was significantly and negatively correlated with psychological wellbeing. Gender and age were not significantly related with psychological wellbeing.

Personality can be defined as "a dynamic and organized set of characteristics possessed by a person that influences hisor her cognitions, motivations, and behaviors in various situations" '. Parental acceptance-rejection theory explains major consequences of parental acceptance and rejection for behavioral,cognitiveand emotionaldevelopment for children and personality



functioning of adults. According to this theory all humanbeings have a generalized need for positive response including: Love; approval; warmth and affection. Children who are rejected by their parents tend to be anxious; hostile; aggressive; emotionally unstable and havelow selfesteem."

Father-absent girls showed more dependence on female adults and reported more feeling of insecurity than father-present girls ". Orphanage reared child are more hostile, alienated and had strong external locus of control. Moreover, children having poor home environment were more alienated as compared with those living in congenial home environment". Children deprived of parental love; care and security generally face economic, psychological and social problems ". Parental involvement is significantly related to children's psychological adjustment ". Single parent's home are more likely to bring up children with higher levels of emotional, psychological and behavioral problems ". A study by Imam and Shaikh (2005) indicated that parental acceptance is related with children's psychological adjustment."

Moreover, lzzat "found significant differences between adolescents living with both parent and single parent groups on the variable of depression, anxiety and behavioral problems. Non orphan children reported higher level of self esteem than the orphan children ". In Pakistan, Farooqi and lntezar (2009) found that the children in orphanages reported lower degree of self esteem than children living withtheir parents."

# METHOD PARTICIPANTS

Through purposive sampling data was collected from 240 adolescents agedbetween 13 to 19years,80 nonorphans (M= 14.18, SD= .99), 80 institutionalized orphans (M= 14.69, SD= 1.59) and 80 non institutionalized orphans (M= 14.41, SD = 1.14). The data was collected from 80 institutionalized orphans from five orphanages of Lahore, non orphans (n=80) and non institutionalized orphans (n=80) were drawn from twelve different schools of Lahore. There was equal number of male and female adolescents and most of the participants werestudentsof eighth class.

# MEASURES

Personality Assessment Questionnaire-Child Form (PAQ) PAQ was originally developed by Rohner (1975)10• It consists of 42 items to assess children'sperceptions of themselves with respect to seven personality dispositions:Hostility & Aggression, Dependence; Self Esteem; Self Adequacy; EmotionaI Responsiveness; Emotional Stability and World View. Each sub scale consists of six items. Participants were required to respond to the PAQ questions on a 4- point likert scale. Responses ranged from almost always true to almost never true. The higher the score on the PAQ, the higher the level of psychological maladjustment. PAQ was translated in Urdu through back translation by Haque (1981) and was revised in 2000 (Veneziano & Rohner, 1998)". In the present study Urdu version of PAQwasused.

# DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONNAIRE

administered to collect information from the participantsin terms of age;gender;number of siblings;birth order;grade;reason of parent's death and theirageat thetimeof parent's death.

# PROCEDURE

Permission was taken from the institutions for data collection.The informed consent was taken from participants while explaining the objectives of the study and assuring the confidentiality of the information sought fromthem.Thetoolswere administered in group setting. It took a participant about 25-30 minutes to complete the questionnaires. Data was analyzed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), t-test and descriptive statistics with Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

# RESULTS

Results obtained from data analyses are shown in the following tables. Adolescents in the NO and NIO group are mostly first born whereas those from the 10 group are mostly second born. The participants of non orphan group mostly had three siblings, participants of NIO group mostly had four siblings and 10 group mostly hadfivesiblings.Non institutionalizedorphangroup losttheir father within 9-12 years of age and institutionalized orphan group at an early age. Participants of 10 group lost their mothers within 5-8 years of age. 63.8% of the participantsof the NO group belonged to nuclearfamilysystem.

One way Analysis of variance showed differences in hostility among the three tested groups, F= 3.67 (df= 2, 237), p= 0.02. Post hoc test confirmed that all three groups differed from one an other on hostility. Institutionalized orphans are more aggressive than both non orphans and non institutionalized orphans. Non orphans are more hostile than non institutionalized orphans (see table 1). Three groups did not show significant differences on ANOVA in dependency, self esteem, self adequacy, emotional unresponsiveness, and emotional instability (see table 2). One way Analysis of variance showed differences in negative world view among the threetested groups,F= 3.11 (df=2,237), p= 0.04.Posthoc test showed that Institutionalized orphans have more negative world view as compared to non institutionalized orphans (table 3). An independent sample t test analysis revealed that there is a significant gender difference in dependency of 10 showing that females havehigher dependency ascompared to males.A significant gender difference in emotional unresponsiveness was found among NO group showing that females are more emotionally unresponsive than males. There is a significant gender difference in emotional instability of 10 group showing that females are more emotionally instable as compared to males. Gender difference in negative world view of 10 group showed that males have more negative world view thanfemales.

# TABLEl

Difference in Hostility between NonOrphans,NonInstitutionalized Orphans and NonOrphans (N=240)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hostility** | ***ss*** | ***df*** | ***MS*** | ***F*** | ***p*** |
| Between | 76.75 | 2 | 38.37 | 3.67 | 0.02\* |
| Within | 2474.17 | 237 | 10.44 |  |  |



|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Post Hoc** | ***D*** | ***SE*** | ***p*** |
| Groups (I-J) |  |  |  |
| N0-I0 | 0.31 | 0.51 | 0.04 |
| NO-NIO | 1.33 | 0.51 | .01\* |
| NI0-I0 | 1.01 | 0.51 | .04\* |

NOTE. 55= sum of squares; df= degree of freedom; MS= mean square; F= F ratio; p= level of significance; d= difference; SE= standard error; NO= non orphan; NIO= non institutionalized orphans;10=institutionalizedorphans;\*= p<.05

TABLE2

Difference in Personality traits between Non Orphans, Non Institutionalized Orphans andNonOrphans (N=240)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dependency** | **ss** | ***df*** | ***MS*** | **F** | ***p*** |
| Between | 17.03 | 2 | 8.51 | 1.35 | 0.26ns |
| Within  **Self Esteem** | 1492.96  **ss** | 237  ***df*** | 6.29  ***MS*** | **F** | ***p*** |
| Between | 34.03 | 2 | 17.01 | 1.5 | 0.22" |
| Within | 2683.16 | 237 | 11.32 |  |  |
| **Self Adequacy** | **ss** | ***df*** | ***MS*** | **F** | ***p*** |
| Between | 1.15 | 2 | 0.57 | 0.06 | **o\_g3ns** |
| Within | 2056.83 | 237 | 8.67 |  |  |
| **Emotlonal Unresponsiveness** | **ss** | ***df*** | ***MS*** | **F** | ***p*** |
| Between | 34,8 | 2 | 17.4 | 1.95 | 0.14"' |
| Within | 2111.68 | 237 | 8.91 |  |  |
| **Emotlonal lnstablllty** | **ss** | ***df*** | ***MS*** | **F** | ***p*** |
| Between | 6.82 | 2 | 3.41 | 0.32 | 0.72"' |
| Within | 2510.73 | 237 | 10.59 |  |  |

Note.55= sum of squares;df= degree of freedom; MS= mean square; F=Fratio;p= level of significance; ns=nonsignificant

Table 2-6 show that there isno significant difference in Dependency, Self Esteem, Self Adequacy, Emotional Responsiveness and Emotional Stability among thethree groups.

TABLE3

Difference in Negative World View between Non Orphans, Non InstitutionalizedOrphans andNonOrphans (N=240)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **World View** | ***ss*** | ***df*** | ***MS*** | ***F*** | ***j:,*** |
| Between | 80.83 | 2.239 | 40.41 | 3.11 | 0.04\* |
| Within | 3076.46 | 237.231 | 12.98 |  |  |
| **Post Hoc** | ***Q*** | ***SE*** | ***e*** |  |  |
|  |
| Groups (I-J) |  |  |  |  |  |
| NO-IO | 1.00 | 0.57 | 0.8 |  |  |
| NO-NIO | 0.38 | 0.57 | 0.51 |  |  |
| NIO-IO | 1.38 | 0.57 | 0.01\* |  |  |

Note. 55=sum of squares; df= degree of freedom; MS= mean square; F=F ratio; p= level of significance; d= difference; SE= standard error; NO= non orphan; NIO= non institutionalized orphans; 10= institutionalized orphans;\*= p<.05

DISCUSSION

The present study investigated personality differences of institutionalized orphans, non institutionalized orphans and non orphan adolescents. Analyses of the present study data demonstrated that institutionalizedorphans were significantly more hostile as compared to non institutionalized orphans. However, non orphans were significantly more hostile than non institutionalized orphans.Theseresults are in agreement withthefindings bySuman 20 who found that behavioral problems including aggression and disruptive behavior were observed in approximately 33% of the institutionalized children. Similarly, in Karachi, Pakistan, Lassi, Mahmud, Syed, and Janjua • found behavioral problems among children living in an SOS Village and conventional orphanages. Fifty one percent of the children living in SOS village manifested behavioral problems whereas, 49 % of the children living in conventional orphanage had behavioral problems.

Single parenting results in emotional and behavioral problems among Pakistani adolescent children ". The results of the present study are congruent with the evidence provided by Reuben 21 as he found that personality development of childrenliving in orphanages is different from children living with parents. Institutionalized children were more aggressive, destructive or hyperactive. The present research demonstrated no significant difference in level of dependency between the three groups. The results of the present study are consistent with the findings of Kim (2008)" who by using PAQ concluded that Korean American adolescent's perceived low maternal warmth and low paternal warmth were not related with adolescents' dependence. Low parental warmth was not related to young adolescent's dependence".

The results of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showed that the three groups were not significantly different in level of self esteem. In Lahore, Pakistan, Farooqi and lntezar (2009) documented findings in line withour present result and reported nonsignificant difference in the self esteem of girls from orphanages and girls living with their parents". These findings support Gecas and Schwalbe's (1986) finding that perceived parental behavior and children's self esteem are not strongly correlated". There was no significant difference in self adequacy between the three groups. In Peshawar, Pakistan, Riaz (1991) reported that no significant difference in self adequacy was foundbetween adolescents of bothparentfamiliesandsingleparent families".

The result of ANOVA showed that the three groups were not significantly different on Emotional Responsiveness Subscale. It was confirmed that there is non significant difference in emotional responsiveness among adolescents of both parent families and single parent families in Peshawar, Pakistan". The results further revealed that thethree groups did not differ on Emotional Instability Subscale of PAQ. Parent child relationship is not a significant influence on females' emotional stability". Similarly, Gracia and Gracia (2009) by using PAQ found that there is non significant difference in emotional instability among Spanish adolescents having authoritative, authoritarian, indulgent or neglected



parents".

Significantly more negative worldview was foundin institutionalized orphans as compared to non institutionalized orphans. However there was no significant difference in world view of nonorphans and institutionalized orphans as well as non institutionalized orphans. Children having inadequate and dysfunctional relationship with their parents reported more negative world view as compared to children having adequate and functional relationship with their parents". However, another research suggests that orphans were betteradjusted thannonorphans".

## CONCLUSION

The findings of the present study reveal that there is a significant difference in Hostility and World View of institutionalized orphans, non institutionalizedorphans andnonorphan adolescents. Whereas, there is no significant difference in Dependency, Self Esteem, Self Adequacy, Emotional Responsiveness and Emotional Stability among the threegroups.

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