

The Impact of Parental Conflict on Children for Their Growth, Upbringing and Proper Grooming

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Abstract

Conflicts often take place between parents. It impacts the kids emotionally and also the way they behave. Kids of parents who have conflicts face difficulties in excelling in life and becoming successful. Family structure plays an important role in a kid's development. Intense conflicts result in divorce, separation and even in spouses living together and married despite conflicts. All these situations can impact kids' grooming as compared to an ideal nuclear family living in harmony. Disruption in husband-wife association adversely impacts their kids' communal psychological results. This can hurt on the grooming and emotions of kids. The adverse impact on kids is revealed in the form of sorrow, perplex, fright of desertion, blameworthiness, misperception, rage, faithfulness disagreement, distress, and anguish. This research was done involving the seventy-seven mothers of students who scored 'D' and 'E' grades in the selected 15 private secondary schools of Hyderabad district, Sindh, Pakistan. Mothers were contacted through the principals of these schools after the consent of the mothers. This study found that kids raised by two-parent status are more successful since they can afford kids better and divide responsibilities of home too. Furthermore, it was revealed financially sound parents raise more successful kids than single parents.

Keywords: Parental conflict; Children; Spouse; Single parent; Grooming.

1. Introduction

A Good husband and wife relationship are identified the foundation of adjustable household behaviour and operation. Disruption in husband-wife association adversely impacts their attitude in kid the parent association and also the kids' communal psychological results. Gao et al. (2019) have argued that father-mother disputes as an indicator of disinterested or unpleasant spouse association and attitude is regularly associated with uncooperative raising and upbringing of kids and gives rise to kids' adaptation issues. For instance, Dad's ruinous disputes anticipate the mother's anguish response to the kid's obstructive feelings. On the other hand, the mom's devastating dispute attitude forecasted a lower disconfirming mother's upbringing. The intensity and type of dispute impact kids' attitude varyingly (Gao et al., 2019).

2. Impact of Separation on Kids' Development

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Separation can harm the grooming and emotions of kids. It has both prolonged and near-term impacts on kids. Pedro-Carroll (2020) found that different kids experience the separation in different ways, and these impacts are unavoidable. There are some ways the chances of adverse impact on kids' development can be minimized, and they can be made resilient and tenacious. The growth impact on children become evident through the manifestation of various distressing emotions such as grief, confusion, fear of abandonment, guilt, misunderstanding, anger, conflict over loyalty, pain, and agony. The absence and the loss of their father as a household member have a significant impact on the kids. Children may experience physical aggression in case of intense conflict. A Majority feel reservations about their future.

It has been observed that some fathers are very caring both before and after separation. Haux and Platt (2021) observed that on the other hand, uncaring fathers fail to remain in touch with kids and may also lose the visitation liberty of kids living with fathers in their house. It was found that kids of such fathers who cared for children were less impacted emotionally due to separation. Fathers, who are capable of looking after kids, try to save the relationship hanging in perils of separation and earn the trust of children (Haux & Platt, 2021). In a normal family where parents live together, they are available all the time for kids. Direnfeld (2020) argued that for kids of separated parents it becomes challenging to decide with which parent the kid will spend a special day like a Birthday, or New Year for example. It can lead to disputes and distress. If disagreement and dispute between parents is severe it becomes hard to celebrate even a festival of joy but when there is maturity and a bit of understanding even after separations kids can rejoice in their special day.

2.1 Impact of Divorce on Children's Success

Parker (2022) reported that kids of divorced parents are more prone to health problems like sickness, wounds, bruises and accidents compared to married and living together parents. Also, divorced parent kids are more vulnerable to traumas and mental health issues. Resultantly not astonishingly divorce may result in a variety of psychological reactions in children, involving all emotions like rage, disappointment, disquietude and sorrow. Kids living with single parents or frequently switching houses receive less guidance from parents in schooling and may become low academic achievers and get low grades.

2.2 Impact of Divorce on Child Development

The near-run repercussion for kids after divorce involves low educational accomplishments, bad emotional adaptation, communal, psychological adaptation and pessimistic self-image. Futuristic impacts involve some kids carrying forward when they become grownups such as a low sense of emotional health, deprived socio-economic rank, weak physical well-being and frail bonding with parents like a father. This minimizes the kids' success

of becoming successful individuals when they grow up (Pedro-Carroll, 2020). Zhang (2019) worked on the disadvantages of divorce. He found that children who live with either a father or mother feel incomplete in their mental, emotional and social well-being. Kids of divorced parents impact a lot the lives of children. It has been observed that kids of divorced parents have unsuccessful future family life and fail to become successful parents themselves and it is highly probable that they get divorced. Pinsker (2019) observed that they marry partners with divorced parents. When only one partner is the kind of a divorced parent, the chances of divorce are less compared to a family where both partners are kids of divorced parents. DePaulo (2020) studied that two-parent households have the advantage because families with single parents have to manage both financial and household chores and family duties. Hence single parents struggle to accomplish the same quality and standard of life like as normal families do for kids. In Pakistan on average 100 cases per day of divorce are recorded in the Family Court of Pakistan (Ali & Soomar, 2019).

3. Impact of Parental Conflicts on Kids' Success of Different Age Groups

Young children often experience confusion regarding the presences of two households, Morin (2021) supposing that their parents' disagreements indicate a dislike for one another, leading them to believe that their parents do not care about their well-being. These children believe that they may have annoyed their parents and inculpate themselves for conflict. Teenagers can become exasperated, frustrated and furious upon the divorce of their parents and the alterations in their life it brings about. They start holding accountable a particular parent for the divorce breakup or both.

The evolution of family structure from co-parenting to single parenting requires many alterations, especially when two spouses divorce. Yusuf et al. (2020) stated that among many kinds of single-parent structures, the majority are led by females. Single parenting of spouse's divorce result in near or long run impact that is both constructive and deleterious. Near- run issues may involve attitude hardships at home or in educational institutes as a primary response to parental split up. Lengthy run impacts are revealed once kids reach adolescence when children sustain hardships in forming and keeping associations. Tian and Wang (2019) found that wealthy urban families tend to care more for the nourishment kids, and this neutralizes the impact of the absence of one parent resulting from divorce and reduced cash margins as compared to with less profit and middle-class single families. A reduction in income of 88% was observed in wealthy rural families, which impacted children's food needs.

Deborah, Palani and Osteen (2020) wrote that being single parent, grooming and developing kids in a usual manner is difficult without making them realize absence of father. In some cases, adversity makes kids stronger; on the other hand, they fail to cope with life and become unsuccessful. Fear of being viewed differently by society and answering enquiries that can be

hurtful. Hence, the growth, grooming, nurturing and development of such kids must be done very vigilantly by single mothers, or else they can easily fall victim to mental health problems.

Tarar, Asghar, Ijaz, and Tarar (2021) found that trend of single parenting in Pakistan is increasing despite the norms and religious bindings of cohesively combined co-parenting. The demise of a spouse or divorce is an exceptional shock not only to mothers but to kids as well. Single mother duties are doubled. They are faced with stigma challenges of divorce, supporting kids mentally and financially against prejudice view of community that impacts kids' growth, grooming and development. Working single mothers face challenges of achieving equilibrium between job and kids care to bring up successful kids.

3.1 Contribution to Existing Knowledge

Parental conflict is known to disturb the growth and upbringing of children. This fact is well recognized and prevalent in the city environments. Our research is based on rural environment where such topics are rarely discussed. Data in this regard for rural Pakistan and mainly rural Sindh is unavailable. Therefore, the research contributes significantly to the existing knowledge.

4. Objective of the Study

To find out the proportion of parents (mothers) who have conflict with their husbands. Also, to find out the reasons for conflict and their impact on children's physical growth, upbringing and proper mental, emotional, social and spiritual (prayers) grooming.

5. Literature Review

Parental conflicts create unsuccessful kids: Less affluent parents having financial help reduce disputes. Elite parents feel that having social and psychological bolster helps overcome disputes within the household. The research found that because of COVID 19, parents and kids spend most of their time at home. Tension, strain, worry and misery created by the pandemic have also given rise to conflict between spouses. The risk of psychological problems is more than ever in parents, and it has a deep-rooted impact on the way kids behave. Anxiety is harmful to kids and fresh minds. Unemployment of parents, absence of kids from school and a dearth of household help activities are other reasons (medium.com, 2021).

Parents' behavior impacts kids' growth: In research, 235 households under same roof were studied for two years. Interceding and thwarting initiatives that aim to enhance parental dispute communication can encourage constructive parenting and kids' upbringing. Gao et al. (2019) assessed that the involvement of both parents in such initiatives is advantageous in boosting the positive impact on parenting activities. The disputes between parents can have varying inferences on each parent's parenting. The husband's disruptive dispute predicted the wife's anguish responds to kids pessimistic feelings,

seconding spillover hypothesis. Spouse disagreement is frequent in several households. It can result in misery, sorrow, perturbation, and hostility in kids. Kouros (2020) has explained that unsettled disputes, arguments, ignoring, and fawning are hallmark of many households and hidden cause of psychological issues in children. Shouting, tossing stuff, and being belligerent can hamper kids' growth. Kids may think they are psychologically unsafe and hold themselves accountable for disputes. Conflicts still haunt them when they become grownups. As per research 50 % of psychological problems start below 14 years. Family is the prime social setting for a person, and mother-father relations are its foundation. The magnitude of conflict, the scenario of the dispute, the period of dispute impact the way kids views the situation. Li, Jiang, Fan, and Zhang (2020) have explored that the kids' cognitive analysis ability and survival tactics are formed based on attributes of conflict and situational elements. Kids react psychologically based on this cognitive interpretation. They identified disputes and stress created by mother-father disputes, and it affects their psychological well-being.

Conflicts between husband and wife on kids are issues in school life and studying. Pessimistic peer associations, physical well-being issues, smoking, and other addictions, frail association probability ahead, minimized academic accomplishments, fewer chances of getting a job, increased chances of aggression and getting physical, sorrow, worry and dejection are impacts of parental conflicts on kids. Pote et al. (2020) examined that good association between spouses, initial involvement measures, and child- caring minds is practical. The repercussions of disputes between parents and kids can be severe.

Disputes between mother and father are indispensable to kids' mental health development, grooming and behavior. According to a study, the impacts of these disputes fluctuate by gender. Hosokawa and Katsura (2019) have analyzed that gender roles are prominent and complicated in the association between husband and wife and kids adaptation. In spouses living under same roof, disputes strategies and kids' psychological indications need to be addressed.

In a study on Holland kids who lived under same roof with parents, spillover was considered phenomena where dispute transfers from one individual to another. Mastrotheodoros et al. (2019) discovered that "Conflict involvement" exacerbates disputes by charging and getting aggressive with other person. "Withdrawal" was also an ineffective tactic as it resulted in halting interaction and thus expanding dispute. "Issue Resolution" was efficient ploy that reached middle ground and created win-win situation using empathy.

As per the study, parent quarrels can adversely impact even a half-year-old kid. Morin (2019) has noticed that 19- year- old children living under same roof as married couples are receptive and delicate to parental disputes. The toll is severe on kids' lives eating abnormalities, copying parents and pessimism towards life. Conflict reasons include using inappropriate words, offending,

and warning of quitting relations, violent hostility, ignoring the dispute, submitting and surrendering a demand. Households with parents living under the same roof are ideal for children, provided both parents get well together and understand each other. However, when quarrels between parents exist, children's lives become a nightmare. Often, despite disputes parents live under the same roof for the benefit of their children (Morin, 2019).

Work-life imbalance hampers parental relations and impacts child growth, upbringing and development. Chances of dispute are higher in parents having babies to look after and care after than childless parents. Khursheed et al. (2019) have asserted that couples having babies have the additional burden of looking after the home and kids and working to earn livelihood. Some spouses live under the same roof but in different rooms. Often, these couples have decided to separate but are still legally married and waiting for a court verdict in some cases. It is because of some advantages of living together. Couples living with kids find it hard to reveal their separation to kids as it can perturb, befuddle, and perplex them and hinder their growth and development. Nevertheless, it cannot be hidden and kids can discover it from outside or anticipate a dispute (OTS Solicitors, 2020). Conflicts impacts kids, making them emotionally unintelligent, short-tempered. It impacts their relationships and also minimizes success in practical life or if they work in an organization (Francis, 2022).

6. Parental conflicts and Impact on Kids' Development

Vergin (2019) has reviewed that parents living together separated to make it convenient for children to absorb the shock that the parents will not live together in the future. Sudden separation can move the world of kids upside down and give them deep sorrow. It is wise for parents not to expose resentment and bitterness to kids to make it easier for them to embrace. Parenting status impacts how kids behave, develop, and perform in a relation to psychological problems. They develop issues with peers (6%), hyperactivity (10%), attitude issues (8%) and emotional issues (10%).

Husband and wife lived in separate rooms under the same roof for various reasons. They might not have enough money to buy second house. Taylor (2020) believes that some wait for financial settlement and attain surety in their circumstances to ensure and save kids from development issues and provide good standard of living for kids that help them succeed in life. Married couples living in different rooms try to heal the broken associations to minimize impact of conflicts of child's upbringing. They live in the same house but have separate lives. When they have kids, they decide on a schedule where they can spend time with children and look after their needs. Many parents decide not to reveal their differences to their children as it can affect their upbringing. Conversing with spouse and kids and avoiding little disputes help using patience. Young (2020) wrote that if decided to live together, disputes would be averted, particularly in the presence of children, as it can impact them more adversely. Kids feel the added burden and become victim of

an inferiority complex to carry themselves and defend queries of peers regarding parent conflicts that impacts their chances to be successful and excel in life. It was found that divorce ratio was highest in kids whose parents divorced due to unhealthy relationship and the second highest was those children whose parents stayed together but had poor relations. Kids of separated parents showed issues like lack of education and psychological and attitude issues. Lu and He (2020) stated that the separation event adverse impacts kids and their health. Almost 30 % of mothers of kids in joint custody experience burnout and depression (Fritzell, Gähler, Fransson, 2020).

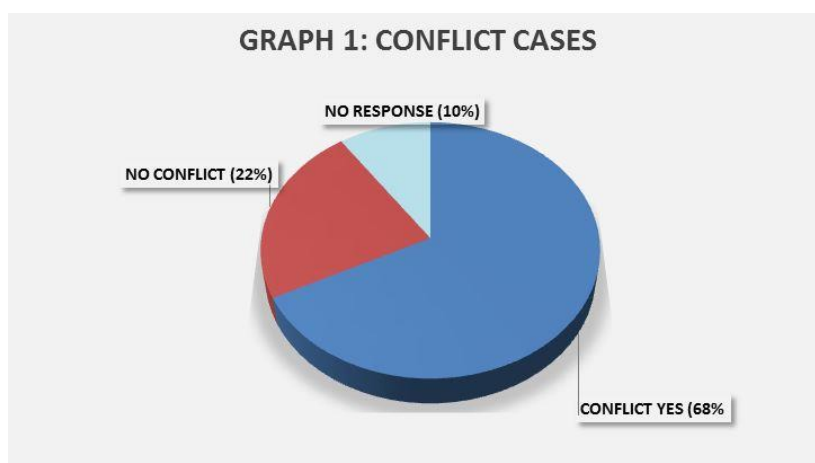
7. Methodology

Research Procedure and sampling: The starting point of our research was secondary schools. We contacted the principals of 15 private secondary schools in the Hyderabad district and wanted to know the number of children who scored D or E grades in their secondary examination. The total number of students who passed their secondary school examination from these 15 schools in 2022 was 495. Of these 495 students, 114 students scored 'D' and 'E' grades. We briefed the school management on our research objectives, and those who agreed proceeded further. We requested the school management to give the telephone numbers (landline or mobile) of mothers of these students (securing 'D' or 'E' grade) after their consent. Once we got the numbers, they were contacted from 11 AM – 12 Noon, the time recommended by the school principals. Those who were busy or unavailable at this time were contacted later with a prior appointment. We contacted the mothers of these 114 students and wanted to know whether they had any conflict with their husbands. Seventy-seven mothers said 'YES' they do have, 26 said 'NO' while 11 mothers refused to answer. We did not contact the fathers. None of the mothers were legally divorced. The research proceeded further with seventy-seven mothers.

7.1 Period of Study

The study was conducted in August 2022. The interviews were done intermittently based on the convenience of the respondents.

8. Result



GRAPH 2: AGE OF MOTHER (%)

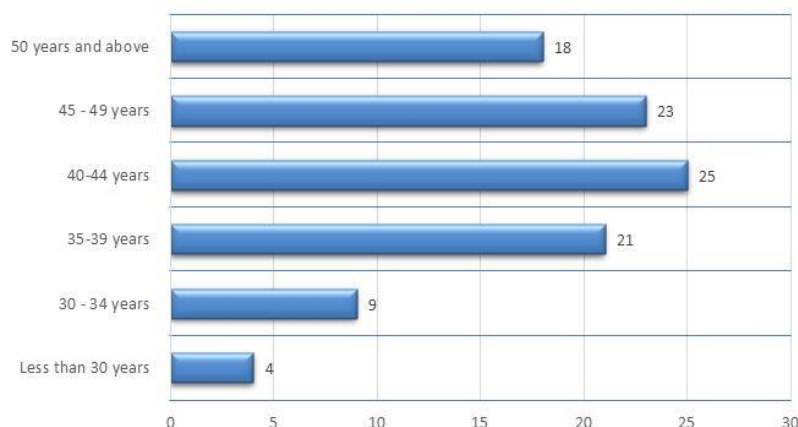


TABLE 1: FACTORS OF PARENTAL CONFLICT			
	N=77	No	Percent
Reasons of conflict	Sexual	54	70.13
	Financial	16	20.78
	Emotional	24	31.17
	Social	11	14.29
	Religious	7	9.09
Level of conflict	Acceptable adaptably	11	14.29
	Acceptable reluctantly	37	48.05
	Acceptable remorsefully	23	29.87
	Unacceptable	6	7.79
Period of conflict	Less than 5 years	7	9.09
	5-9 years	18	23.38
	10 -14 years	14	18.18
	15-19 years	23	29.87
	20 years and more	15	19.48

TABLE 2: YEARS AFTER MARRIAGE CONFLICTS DEVELOPED			
		N=77	PERCENT
Conflict develops after number of years of marriage	Less than 5 years	6	7.79
	5-9 years	36	46.75
	10-14 years	21	27.27
	15-19 years	11	14.29
	20 years or more	3	3.90

TABLE 3: AFFECT OF PARENTAL CONFLICT ON CHILDREN			
		N=77	PERCENT
Physical /Physiological	Weak health	34	44.16
	Late puberty	21	27.27
	Energy	42	54.55
	Slow growth	29	37.66
	Erratic eating behavior	31	40.26
Emotional /Psychological	Arrogant / short tempered	41	53.25
	Depressed	36	46.75
	Non-cooperative	39	50.65
	Introvert	34	44.16
	Disobedient	27	35.06
Mental	Slow learner / unintelligent	63	81.82
	Forgetful	56	72.73
	Low drive	52	67.53
	Low self confidence	49	63.64
	Low academic grade	69	89.61
Social	Unfriendly /Aloof	47	61.04
	Misbehave	43	55.84
	Hostile	32	41.56
	Cheater /liar	37	48.05
	Substance abuse (addiction)	19	24.68
Spiritual / Religious	Non-religious	43	55.84
	Highly religious	34	44.16
	Meek / humble	36	46.75
	God fearing	34	44.16
	Submissive	31	40.26

8.1 Explanation

Sexual conflict: Sexual competence (incompatibility), frequency of sex demand, level of dissatisfaction with sex (sexual incompatibility)

Financial conflict: Income, limitation in expense (despite good income),

Emotional conflict: Love, compassion, possessiveness

Social conflict: Visits to relatives and friends, social gatherings, co-mixing of male and female guests in a gathering

Spiritual / Religious conflict: Differences or restrictions in the practice of religious rites among different sects, such as Shia, Sunni, Deobandi and Brelvi. As well as practicing Muslims Christians and, Hindus.

9. Discussion

Our study shows that 68% of children with low grades in secondary examination experienced parental conflict at home. Mothers complained about different aspects of the conflict.

Robinson (2020) thinks the father's role positively affects parenting and establishes a strong and trustworthy bond with the kids. Kids always role model parents who shape the future by developing likeness, displaying tenacity under challenging situations, responding and honoring the atmosphere. It is evident that in parental conflict, both parents have their roles. Karayel (2019) argued that the husband- wife relationship impacts how it safeguards children and the family members, how they emerge successful in life, how they earn a living, and other life capabilities. Once the father, the main person who nurtures these life capabilities in kids, is absent, these capabilities' degradation may take place. Kids who lose their fathers are more probable to engage in transgression. They become furious and easily offended. They may become introverts, may become part of the wrong company, and become aggressive, physical, and violent. Research supports that kids not having a parent perform poorly academically compared to kids with both parents. This statement correlates with our finding that children's behavior is not normal, and they perform at school with low grades.

Father is a tree that shelters the household. The absence of a father leaves a void and lack of belief in kids. Such kids may not be equipped to cope with difficulties of life. They develop reservations like who will support and run the home's expenses. . Uncertainty about the source of income in the house and looking after brothers, sisters and aloof single mothers can create emotional distress in children. They struggle to fill void with someone else. Girls are, in particular connected with their fathers. Such kids become frail in forming and adhering to successful relationships. Kids who lose their fathers feel less of themselves. They perceive themselves as fragile, flawed and blemished. Children from single-parent households and those with financial stability often compare themselves to other children, resulting in feeling of disappointment and sadness unless they receive counseling. Kids lack self-esteem and hold themselves responsible for circumstances; they feel they are useless, not important or valued, and they feel disadvantaged, powerless, incompetent and defenseless. Mothers and fathers contribute significantly towards looking after and nurturing kids. They are like mentors, of kids who direct, discipline and regulate kids. Kids adopt norms, values and regulations from parents initially. Parents rectify their errors, blemishes, flaws, deficiencies and imperfections. This behavior was observed more in boys (Karayel, 2019). In case, due to conflict, the child loses his father and his behavior turns abnormal, our finding supports this research.

Our research also finds that the conflict becomes evident at an advanced relationship stage (after 35 years of the female partner). In earlier stages, the mothers try to accommodate the deficiencies of the male partner, but as the relationship grows, it becomes difficult to adjust and continue.

10. Conclusion

Parental conflict is a common issue in our society. However, the family structure does often discourage divorce which can result in couples living together in a complex and unbearable relationship. This can adversely affect a child's well-being, development, growth and grooming. The adverse influence and behavior can be caused by physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual (religious) factors, which can lead to feelings of embarrassment and guilt for the child.

In Pakistan parental, conflicts are increasing with time. It impacts kids through different stages. In infancy, kids might fall victim to a lack of belief in their parents because parents do not give time to kids. They might develop an inferiority complex and identity ambiguity in childhood and adolescence. In teenage or initial adulthood, they might become grownups, hopelessness, and contempt may occur. Kids whose parents have conflict are left behind in growth, development, cognitive abilities, social skills and, attitude-behavior grooming and, hence, are less successful in their future lives.

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