Exploring Relationships Among Authoritative Parenting, Religiosity, and Adolescent Internalizing Behaviors

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Overview

- Background & Theoretical Framework
- Purpose of the Study/Objectives
- Data Analysis
- Findings
- Practical Implications
Background & Theoretical Framework

- Adolescent Development Changes
  - Piaget (1963, 2008) & Erikson (1968)

- Religiosity & Internalizing Behaviors

- Relational Spirituality Framework (Mahoney, 2010)
  - Religiousness and family relationships

- Positive parenting practices
  - Authoritative Parenting style (Baumrind, 1991)

- Family Connectedness & Adolescents Internalizing Behaviors
  - (Houltberg, Henry, Merten, & Robinson, 2011)
Purpose of the Study

• This study explores relationships among authoritative parenting style, religiosity, family connectedness, and internalizing behaviors of adolescents

  • Relationship between authoritative parenting & religiosity on adolescents’ internalizing behaviors

  • Religious practices on adolescents internalizing behaviors

  • Family protection of adolescents from internalizing behaviors
Data/Participants

• The Flourishing Families Project
  • Wave V (2011)

• Participants
  • Two-parent married families
  • Dyads Parent 1 & their adolescent child
    • N = 325
    • Adolescent mean age = 15.28, SD = 1.01
Measures

• a) Religiousness
  • Organization
  • Personal
    • Incongruence

• (b) Family-level religious practices
• (c) Authoritative Parenting style
• (d) Family Connectedness [Parent-teen]
• (e) Adolescent internalizing behaviors
Methods & Analysis

• Descriptive statistics were computed using SPSS 22.0
• Path analysis with observed variables
Percent of Adolescents by Race/Ethnicity & Gender

N = 325  Male (n=169)  Female (n=156)
# Descriptive Statistics of Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Total (n = 325)</th>
<th>Male Adolescent (n = 169)</th>
<th>Female Adolescent (n = 156)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authoritative Parenting</td>
<td>51.40&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt; (10.18)&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>50.80 (10.27)</td>
<td>52.05 (10.07)</td>
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<td>(15 = never authoritative) (75 = always authoritative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent-Adolescent Connectedness</td>
<td>14.90 (2.67)</td>
<td>14.84 (2.36)</td>
<td>14.97 (2.98)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4 = low connectedness) (20 = high connectedness)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adolescent Internalizing Behaviors</td>
<td>5.58 (4.90)</td>
<td>4.47 (4.55)</td>
<td>6.79 (4.99)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0 = not internalizing) (26 = often internalizing)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Parents Combined Annual Income</td>
<td>123,628.24&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt; (178,450.20)&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>131,629.59 (232,982.04)</td>
<td>114,960.12 (87,101.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(in Dollars)</td>
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</table>

*Note. (N = 325) a Mean b Standard deviation.*
Adolescents Reported Levels of Internalizing Behaviors

- Cry a lot: Male Adolescents 11.9, Female Adolescents 54.5
- Have to be perfect: Male Adolescents 44.4, Female Adolescents 67.9
- Afraid I might think or do...: Male Adolescents 38.5, Female Adolescents 39.1
- Nervous or tense: Male Adolescents 43.2, Female Adolescents 59.6
- Fearful or anxious: Male Adolescents 30.8, Female Adolescents 46.8
- Self-conscious or easily embarrassed: Male Adolescents 52.6, Female Adolescents 69.8
- Suspicious: Male Adolescents 40.2, Female Adolescents 37.8

Legend:
- Blue: Male Adolescents
- Orange: Female Adolescents
Path Analysis & Findings
Implications For Practice & Research

- Adolescent Development & Religious Practices
- Promoting Authoritative Parenting (parent education)
- Parental Connectedness and open communication/discussion with adolescent
- Religious Leaders
  - Youth Pastors
Implications for Research

• Internalizing behaviors & different parenting styles
• Replicate Study
  • Different SES & family structures (single vs two parents)
  • Explore ethnicity/minority cultural family dynamic/roles and values and religion/spirituality
References


Thank you!

• What Questions Do you have?

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