

Moderating Effects of Power and Prestige Across Age on Parental Acceptance and Children's Psychological Adjustment

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Introduction

Introduction



Tools



Objetivon



Participants



Tools



Discussion



Conclusion





INTRODUCTION

Background: Parental Acceptance and Children's Adjustment

Universal association

Parental acceptance-rejection is consistently associated with children's psychological adjustment across cultures

(Rohner, 1986, 2004; Khaleque & Rohner, 2012)

Differential parental contribution

Maternal and paternal acceptance do not always contribute equally to children's adjustment

(Rohner & Veneziano, 2001)

Possible mechanism

Perceived parental power and prestige may intensify the emotional impact of parental acceptance-rejection

(Carrasco & Rohner, 2013; Chyung, 2010)



INTRODUCTION

The Differential Contribution of Fathers and Mothers

Father's Rejection More Harmful

Some studies find paternal rejection contributes more to children's maladjustment

(Khaleque & Rohner, 2012; Rohner & Britner, 2002).

Mother's Rejection More Painful

Other studies find maternal rejection is most damaging for children.

(Rohner & Veneziano, 2001)

Children's perception of parental interpersonal power and prestige may explain these differential effects

(Carrasco & Rohner, 2013; Chyung, 2010)

Developmental stage may shape these perceptions

 OBJECTIVE

Research Objective



Main Aim

To analyze to what extent the interpersonal power and prestige of parents moderates the direct relationship between parental acceptance and psychological adjustment of children across 9-16 years old



Specific Objective

To understand why the acceptance or rejection of one parent could affect the child's adjustment more than the acceptance or rejection of the other parent, who is also significant in the child's life.



Developmental Framework

Any effect between the variables may be sensitive to the cognitive and social advances that occur from late childhood to adolescence, as well as to the corresponding adjustments in family functioning.



 KEY CONCEPTS

Key Concepts: Interpersonal Power and Prestige

Interpersonal Power

An individual's capacity to influence the decisions and behaviours of others (Bruins, 1999; Keltner et al., 2003). Originates in interpersonal exchanges — *not* based on status, authority, or institutional position.

Interpersonal Prestige

Recognition through social approval, esteem, respect, and admiration that one person raises in another. Closely related to power, both tend to be stable in small groups (Berger & Webster, 2006).



METHOD

Method: Participants & Instruments

Participants

913 Spanish children and adolescents (424 boys, 489 girls), aged 9–16 years ($M = 12.71$, $SD = 1.82$). Students from public schools across several Spanish cities, mostly living with biological parents. All instruments were adapted to the Spanish population.

Instruments

- **3PQ** (Interpersonal Questionnaire on Parental Power and Prestige ;Rohner, 2011): 10 items assessing perceived parental power (5 items) and prestige (5 items). Scores range 10–50; midpoint 30.
- **PARQ/C** (Rohner, 2005): 29-item measure of parental acceptance-rejection across warmth, hostility, indifference, and undifferentiated rejection.
- **PAQ** (Personality Assessment Questionnaire; Rohner & Khaleque, 2005): 42 items assessing 7 personality dispositions as indicators of psychological adjustment.



RESULTS

Overall Results: Key Correlations

$\beta=.34$

Father's Acceptance

Significant effect on children's adjustment ($p=.00$)

$\beta=.30$

Mother's Acceptance

Significant effect on children's adjustment ($p=.00$)

$\beta=-.14$

Interpersonal Power

Significant negative correlation with maladjustment ($p=.00$)

$\beta=.23$

Age Effect

Positive correlation
between age and maladjustment ($p=.00$)

Sex showed no significant effect ($\beta = -.01, p = .72$). Prestige was also significantly related to adjustment, though with the smallest contribution.

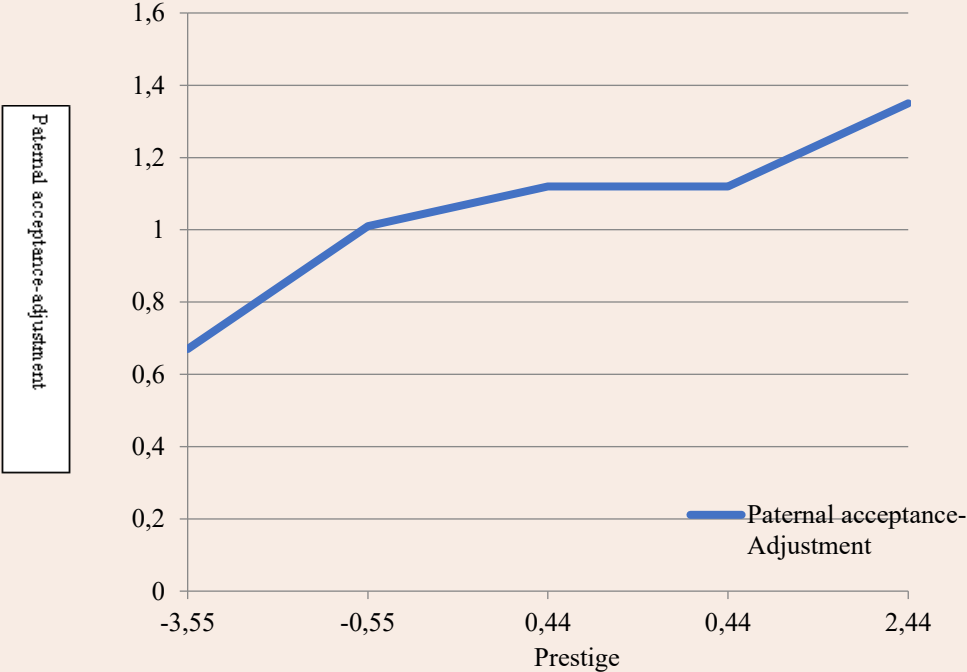
Results by Age Group: Parental Acceptance & Power

Associations between Parental acceptance, Interpersonal Power, Prestige and child adjustment by groups of age

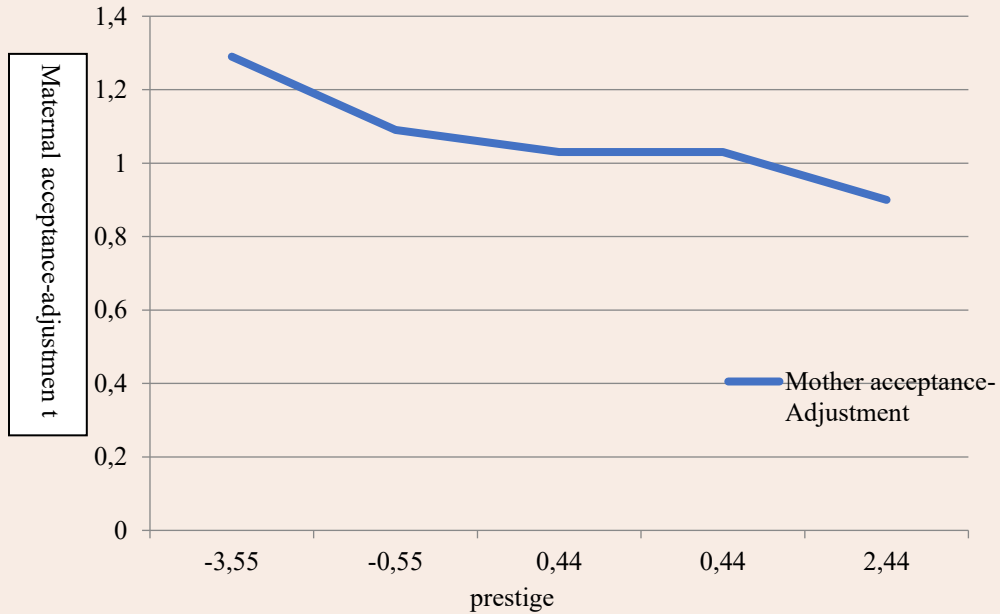
Variable	9–10 yrs	11–12 yrs	13–14 yrs	15–16 yrs
Paternal Acceptance	$\beta=.21^*$	$\beta=.34^*$	$\beta=.38^*$	$\beta=.42^*$
Maternal Acceptance	$\beta=.43^*$	$\beta=.33^*$	$\beta=.26^*$	$\beta=.31^*$
Interpersonal Power	$\beta=-.23^*$	$\beta=-.11$	$\beta=-.14^*$	$\beta=-.12$
Prestige	$\beta=.10$	$\beta=.00$	$\beta=.11$	$\beta=.00$

* $p < .05$. Parental acceptance showed a significant direct effect on adjustment across **all** age groups. The direct effect of father's interpersonal power was significant only in the 9–10 and 13–14 age groups. **By group of age, perceived prestige was only indirectly related to child's adjustment and it's effect was focalized in children from 9-12.**

Paternal acceptance and adjustment in relation to prestige in 9-10 years children



Maternal acceptance and adjustment in relation to prestige in 9-10 years children





Moderating Role of Prestige: Ages 9–12

Perceived prestige had an **indirect** moderating effect on adjustment, concentrated in children aged 9–12.

PARTICIPANTS

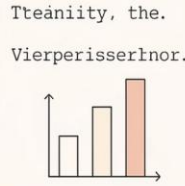
TOOLS



OBJECTIVES



OBJECTIVES



DISCUSSION

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RESULTS



CONCLUSION



Ages 9–10: Father's Prestige

Higher paternal prestige intensified the relationship between father's acceptance and child adjustment ($\beta=1.43$,

Ages 9–10: Mother's Prestige

Higher maternal prestige strengthened the link between mother's acceptance and adjustment ($\beta=-1.85$, $p=.02$).

Ages 11–12: Mother's Prestige Only

Higher maternal prestige relative to the father intensified the mother's acceptance–adjustment relationship ($\beta=1.33$, $p=.01$).



RESULTS

Moderating Role of Power: Ages 13–14

Key Finding

In children aged 13–14, perceived interpersonal power of the father **moderated** the relationship between father's acceptance and child adjustment ($\beta=.89$, $p=.02$).

Higher paternal interpersonal power *increased* the intensity of the father's acceptance–adjustment relationship.

Direct Effect of Power

For the youngest group (9–10 years), father's interpersonal power had a **direct** effect on adjustment — a greater contribution than even father's acceptance itself.

Oldest Group (15–16)

Moderating effects of both power and prestige were **not significant**, suggesting these dynamics shift as adolescents mature.

Discussion: Age, Adjustment & Parental Acceptance

Age & Maladjustment

Age is positively related to maladjustment, supporting the view of adolescence as a challenging period (Singh, Bassi, Junnarkar & Negri, 2015).

Universal Acceptance Effect

Parental acceptance has a stable direct effect on adjustment at all ages, regardless of cultural practices or social status (Rohner, Khaleque y Cournoyer, 2005).

Introduction



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Discussion





DISCUSSION

Discussion:

Power & Prestige as Moderators

Perceived interpersonal power and prestige intensify the effect of parental acceptance or rejection on adjustment. (Carrasco & Rohner, 2013). Moderating effects disappear only in the oldest children (15–16 years)

Father's Role in Late Childhood

Higher paternal interpersonal power is associated with better adjustment in children aged 9–10 and 13–14. As children become more autonomous, fathers become more involved in their concerns and daily routines.

Therapeutic Counterbalance

Higher interpersonal power of the father relative to the mother represents a healthy counterbalance of parental influence, supporting children's adjustment during late childhood and preadolescence (9–14 years).

Summary of Key Conclusions



Universal Acceptance Effect

Parental acceptance has a direct, significant effect on adjustment at **all ages** — independent of cognitive or social development.



Age-Sensitive Effects

Direct and moderating effects of power and prestige are significantly shaped by the child's age, disappearing by ages 15–16.



Power & Prestige Intensify

Both variables amplify the impact of parental acceptance or rejection on children's psychological adjustment.



Father's Power Matters

Higher paternal interpersonal power is directly linked to better adjustment in children aged 9–10 and 13–14.



Limitations & Future Directions

Current Limitations

- Sample restricted to Spanish, predominantly white European, Catholic families
- All variables were assessed using self-report measures, which may introduce perceptual or social desirability biases.

Future Research Needed

- Longitudinal designs to track developmental shifts
- Examine socio-cultural factors shaping parental role expectations



Thank you for the attention!

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