

Global Implications of Parental Indifference, Neglect, Hostility, and Aggression on Children's Psychological Maladjustment and Negative Personality Dispositions: Findings of Meta-analyses

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Children's perceptions of parental rejection in the forms of indifference, neglect, hostility, and aggression have been found to have negative outcomes on their psychological adjustment and personality development almost universally-regardless of culture, gender, ethnicity, and geographical boundary [1,2]. Perceived parental rejection has been found to have a number of mental health outcomes, including conduct disorders, depression, delinquency, externalizing behaviors, and substance abuse [3]. Some of the consequences of perceived rejection are also found in developmental trauma disorder [4] and posttraumatic stress disorder [5]. Abuse and maltreatment of children through indifferent, neglecting, hostile, and aggressive parenting behaviors can have lasting impacts on children's cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal functioning [6].

The results of one meta-analysis based on 33 studies from 15 countries in four continents involving 11,755 children (52% boys and 48% girls) showed that perceived maternal and paternal indifference and neglect have significant impacts on the psychological maladjustment and negative personality dispositions of children globally across cultures [1]. Results of another meta-analysis based on 35 studies from 16 countries in four continents involving 13,406 children (52% boys and 48% girls) revealed that both maternal and paternal hostility and aggression have significant effects on the psychological maladjustment and negative personality dispositions such as hostility and aggression, dependence, negative self-esteem, negative self-adequacy, emotional instability, emotional unresponsiveness, and negative worldview of children worldwide across cultures [2]. Results further revealed that perceived maternal hostility and aggression have significantly stronger impacts than perceived paternal hostility and aggression for children's psychological maladjustment globally.

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