

An exploratory study of the
relationship between fathering and
self-esteem of young adult women.

by

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I hereby declare that this dissertation is my own work and that I have not submitted it for the degree at any other university.

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ABSTRACT

The present study investigated the relationship between variables of father's behaviour and their daughter's levels of self-esteem - both were explored based on the perceptions of the daughter. Self-esteem was viewed as the measure of worthiness that one attributed to oneself, whilst the variables of father's behaviour included support, punishment, control, rejection, indulgence, autonomy and protectiveness. The same elements of mother's behaviour were also considered to see how they related to their daughter's self-esteem; the primary motive for doing this was to provide a contrast to the outcome of the fathering information.

The participation of seventy-seven young adult women between the ages of 21 and 34, and from different race groups and cultural backgrounds was requested through a number of associates who then passed the relevant questionnaires on to their associates. Respondents were asked to return the questionnaires fully completed, and data on father variables and self-esteem were then used from these questionnaires.

Statistical analysis involved non-parametric analyses in the form of Spearman's Correlation Rank and demonstrated a significant, negative correlation between protectiveness and self-esteem ($r = -.368$, $p < 0.001$, 13.54% of variance) only for the father behaviours, while for the mother behaviours significant correlations existed between praise and self esteem, rejection and self-esteem, punishment self-esteem and protectiveness and the young adult women's self-esteem. Theoretically and practically the implications of the findings suggest that parents and the roles they play may have an impact on their daughter's self-esteem, at least for this sample, and thus future research

into the meanings of the above findings and their impact on children - or more specifically - female children is a worthwhile undertaking, as is consideration of the stereotypical gender roles that society upholds.

OPSOMMING

Die huidige studie ondersoek die verhouding tussen pa's se gedrag en hul dogters se selfbeeld vlakke – beide ondersoek is gebaseer op die dogters se persepsies. Selfbeeld is beskou as die maatstaf van die waarde wat 'n persoon toegeskryf aan die self, terwyl die veranderlikes van vaderlike gedrag ondersteuning, straf, beheer, verwerping, beskerming, outonomie en betrokkenheid insluit. Dieselfde elemente van moeders se gedrag was ook oorweeg om te ondersoek hoe hierdie elemente verwant is aan hul dogters se selfbeeld; die primere motief om dit te doen, was om 'n kontras met die uitkoms van die vaderlike ouerskapsinligting te verskaf.

Die deelneming van sewe-en-sewentig jong volwasse vrouens tussen die ouderdomme van 21 en 34, van verskillende rasse groepe en kulturele agtergrond was versoek deur 'n aantal vennote, wat toe die relevante vraelyste aangestuur het aan hulle vennote. Respondente is gevra om die voltooidde vraelyste terug te stuur, en die data van vaderlike veranderlikes en selfbeeld in die vraelyste is daarna gebruik vir ontledingsdoeleindes.

Die statistiese analise het nie-parametriese analise behels in die vorm van Spearman se Korrelasie Range, en het 'n betekenisvolle negatiewe korrelasie tussen beskerming en selfbeeld gedemonstreer ($r=-.368$, $p<0.001$, 13.54% van veranderlikes) slegs vir die pa's se gedrag, terwyl daar vir die moeders se gedrag 'n betekenisvolle korrelasie bestaan het tussen lof en selfbeeld, verwerping en selfbeeld, straf en selfbeeld en beskerming en die jong volwasse vrouens se selfbeeld. Die implikasies van die bevindinge het teoreties en

prakties voorgestel dat ouers en die rolle wat hul speel moontlik 'in impak op hul dogters se selfbeeld kan he, ten minste in hierdie monster, en dus kan toekomstige navorsing oor die betekenis van die bogenoemde bevindinge en die impak daarvan op kinders – of meer spesifiek – vroulike kinders – beskou word as waardevol om te onderneem so ook die oorweging van die stereotipiese geslagsrolle wat deur die samelewing onderhou word.

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