

IMPACT OF PARENTING STYLES AND MACHIAVELLIANISM ON BORDERLINE TENDENCIES AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract

The present study investigated the role of parenting styles and Machiavellianism in borderline tendencies among university students. It was also intended to determine the role of various demographics (gender and years of education) in relation to study variables. Sample (N = 200) comprised of students (men and women) with age range of 18-29 years was acquired from government and private universities from Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Measures of Parenting Authority Questionnaire (Buri, 1991), Machiavellianism Subscale (Paulhus & Williams, 2011), Zannarini Rating Scale of Borderline Tendencies (Zannarini, 2003) were used to assess the study variables. Result showed positive association of negative parenting styles (authoritarian and permissive) with Machiavellianism and borderline tendencies. Results also showed that the positive parenting style (authoritative parenting style) was negatively associated with Machiavellianism and borderline tendencies. Findings further unveiled that the male students reported more negative parenting style and reflected higher inclinations of Machiavellianism and borderline tendencies as compared to women. It has been also found that postgraduate students expressed higher perceptions of negative parenting styles, Machiavellianism and borderline tendencies as compared to

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graduate students. Implications, limitations and suggestions for further research had also been discussed.

Key Words: Borderline Personality Tendencies, Machiavellianism, Authoritative Parenting style, Authoritarian Parenting style, Permissive Parenting style

Introduction

Parents provide children with structure from which they can begin to develop and develop their own value systems. This framework is developed through socialization, observation and communication that the children have with their parents (Bandura as cited in Smetana, 2020). Parenting style is a psychological construct that demonstrates the specific tactics that parents use in the upbringing of their children (Morin et al, 2020). The nature of child-rearing may be more important than the amount of time paid to the child. Such as, parents can spend the whole afternoon with their child, yet parents may be engaged in a variety of activities and may not show much interest in the child. Parents' behavior is a demonstration of how parents respond and demand from their children. Parenting practices are specific behaviors that how parents reply to their child's demands, while parenting styles represent broad patterns of parental practices.

Machiavellianism is one of the dark triad of personality traits, the remaining two are psychopathy and narcissism. Paulhus and Williams coined the term Dark Triad in 2002. The Dark Triad refers to three unusual negative personality traits.

Narcissism is characterized by ego satisfaction, vanity, a sense of superiority, greatness, dominance, and the attainment of right. Manipulation has been identified in Machiavellianism - a calculated, fake and general figure, focused on interest and self-interest. Psychopathy is distinguished by rudeness, determination, and enduring social and bold behavior (Paulhus & Williams,

2002). It has been found by the studies that there is a positive relation between Machiavellianism and alexithymia. As emotional intelligence is an essential element in coping with stress, machiavellians are supposed to suffer due to the lack of emotional intelligence (Cairncross et al., 2013). In particular, Machiavellianism has been related to one aspect of alexithymia, the exaggeration of external thoughts (i.e. escaping thinking about their own feelings) (Jonason & Krause, 2013) that can result in difficulty in handling stressful events. Machiavellianism and psychopathy are related with low positive mood and mood swings (Egan et al., 2014) and emotional expression (Lyons & Brockman, 2017), which, in turn, can be a barrier to coping with stress. Those who possess machiavellistic traits might be less defended against traumatic life experiences and experience more mental stress (Evans, et al., 2019).

Borderline personality tendency is inclined towards the symptoms of borderline personality disorder and is likely at risk to develop the disorder. Borderline disorder was used to refer to a group of patients whose health has worsened during therapy sessions and who had displayed psychotic behavior and psychological stiffness, suggesting that no defensive system had been developed against certain changes in the environment or within the person. Gunderson and Singer (as cited in Clarke et al., 2020) described borderline personality disorder characterized by instability and extreme sensitivity in relationships, instability in self-image, extreme mood swings, and misbehavior. The diagnosis is based on clinical standards. Treatment is with psychotherapy and medication (Skodol, 2019). Borderline Personality Disorder is marked by severe confusion regarding coping, anxiety, temperament, interactions, and occasionally reality checks. Borderline personality disorder is usually related with major disruption because of comorbid circumstances, including dysthymia, major depression, drug misuse, and psychiatric disorders about 70-75% of clients with borderline personality

disorder have a past record of at least one deliberate self-harm, and the average projected suicide rate is 9% (Lieb et al., 2019).

Theoretical Background of the Study

Baumrind's parenting style theory. The most prominent work on parent child relationship is related to early working of Baumrind that has been augmented recently by many succeeding researchers (Lascaia, 2019; Morin, 2019; Rangarajan et al., 2020 Serra et al., 2020). The study of relations between children and their parents defined main types of parenting, which included nurturance (opposite to clash or negligence) and control strategies. Types of parenting styles were thus constructed from the bridge of nurturance, clash and control: authoritative (friendliness, positive/principled control and high expectations in youth), authoritarian (low warmth, more clash and oppressive and punitive), permissive (high balminess and low control). These three types have been frequently related with child's future behavior. People who experienced authoritative parenting are highly practical, educationally and socially competent, and at least symptomatic. And those who are exposed to authoritarian and permissive type of parenting show extremely poor outcomes perform worst socially and academically. Authoritarian parenting is the most troubled among the three types (Esplin, 2017).

Theory of Social learning. The social learning theory suggest that the amount of care given to a child especially flexibility and receptiveness contribute to a stable (optimal) or non-stable (non-optimal) attachment. Attachment used the phrase pathway to make it clear make it clear that early attachment interactions do not form future changes in a deterministic fashion. It is not the same as disruption associated with insecurity and does not guarantee a secure attachment against anxiety. However, we do know that a specific form of insecure attachment in infants and young children is called 'insecure-disorganized' which is a serious

threat to psychiatric treatment and is a particular risk in the care environment (Skowron & Fisher, 2013). Attached relationships are internalized and promoted to influence the expectations of other important relationships. Therefore, the history of permanent and sensitive care with parents is expected to set a precedent for loving and caring for oneself and others (Cicchetti et al., 2000; Kranenburg et al., 2003).

Relationship Between Parenting Style and Borderline Tendencies

Treatment of parents during the child's upbringing may be associated with a risk of personality disorder in the offspring that endures into adulthood. This risk cannot be attributed to the child's behavioral and emotional problems or the parents' psychological disorder and may not diminish over time. Poor parenting and unwanted parental behavior during child rearing may be associated with a higher risk of developing personality disorders in children (Johnson et al., 2006). Parental misbehaviors (including childhood abuse and neglect) have been linked to the discovery of personality traits in the scientific literature, particularly borderline personality disorder (Steele et al., 2019). Borderline personality disorder is related to more than one attachment style (Lenzenweger & Clarkin, 2005). It has been discovered that the more a child is affected by a parent's negative attitudes, the more likely they are to develop borderline tendencies. Batool, Shehzadi, Riaz and Riaz (2017) found that both permissive and authoritarian parenting styles led to personality disorders among offspring in the adult phase of their lives. Negative parenting has been found to be a cause of borderline tendencies, approximately 84% of individuals with borderline disorder retroactively report parental neglect and emotional abuse before 18 years of age. Etemadi (2020) reported that authoritarian and authoritative styles substantially predicted borderline personality traits among the three parenting styles. A heartfelt and approachable connection between adolescents and parents offers a stable condition for the growth of youth. Authoritarian parents emphasize

authority and compliance, impose punitive discipline and expect children to follow their orders without disagreeing (Ashoori, 2020). when individual are exposed to this type of parenting they are more vulnerable to become nervous, lonely, and frustrated and this treatment makes them more susceptible to mental disorders(Alexander, 2006). Furthermore parents' disapproval to their children's' emotional expression is one of the most significant factors that make the children more vulnerable to borderline tendencies, since the child becomes vulnerable to emotional instability and inability to regulate impulses when any emotional expression from the child receives negative feedback from parents, and these are among the key features of borderline personality disorder (Hooly, 2007).

Relationship Between Parenting Styles and Machiavellianism

Parental bonding (i.e., parental care and overprotection) is important in promoting personality traits in adolescence and adult relationships. Abell and Lyons (2014) found that declining maternal care and increasing parental abuse were associated with Machiavellianism in adolescence. Negative parental attitudes i.e. authoritarian and permissive will be one of the reasons for the development of machiavellistic tendencies in children. Similarly, parental machiavellianis will accelerate the development of machiavellistic traits in children. Both boys and girls have high levels of Machiavellianism with poor parental relationships (Lang & Birkas, 2015).Lang and Birkas (2015) concluded that individuals who experience poor relationship with their parents show high levels of machiavellianism for both boys and girls. Abell, Lyon and Brewer (2014) suggested that machiavellianism and the quality of adult friendships are related to children's encounters with parents. Specifically, those who experience parental over protection low maternal care is more likely to develop machiavellistic traits in adulthood. The connection between maternal care and machiavellianism is also demonstrated in a past literature (Jonason, 2012).

Mothers' lack of care can promote the growth of mistrust and cynicism, as the mother is usually seen as the one who should be counted unconditional love and care. Individual will then expect others less likely to give them care and warmth if the mother fails to give them adequate level of care. Taking a pessimistic and distrustful view of all personal relationships would minimize the costs associated with engaging in unsatisfactory relationships and minimize abuse by others (Lyon et al., 2014). In a variety of studies (e.g., Jonason, Lyons, & Bethell, 2014; Lang & Abell, 2018), machiavellianism was significantly correlated with recollections or parallel experiences of parental rejection. Láng and Lénárd (2015) have shown that machiavellianism has been correlated with more recurrent memories of negative childhood home environment and abandonment in a group sample of adults. These perceptions of abandonment may be expressed in the possession of schemas by machiavellian adolescents' voicing expectations of emotional isolation, mistrust and violence (Láng, 2015).

Rationale

The aim of this research is to explore the role of parental style and machiavellianism in borderline tendencies among university students. Research shows that a child's ability to master satisfactorily in a variety of situations is essential to their positive health. Children who experience a parental style that is characterized by greater warmth, acceptance and nurturing are protected at a good pace of adjustment in their lives (Lang 2018). Previous research has focused on the relationship between parental behaviors with unhealthy aspects such as depression and anxiety. Recent studies (Marano, 2019; Steele, 2020) have identified gaps in determining the specific role of different parental styles in the development of related disorders and pathological tendencies such as affecting borderline personalities. Previous work on the role of parents has focused specifically on the regulation of personality traits and emotions, but the sophistication of the study of the possible influence of patterns of each specific

interaction of parents in the formation of dark triad components (Lang & Birkas, 2015). Previous research has focused on personality traits in relationship selection (Koladich & Atkinson, 2016), self-report creativity (Johnson & Richardson, 2015), and aggressive behavior, while there is a gap to observe the role of personality traits in psychopathy. The following research will seek to bridge the gap among studies, including machiavellianism and borderline tendencies. Through this study, we will learn about the effects of Machiavellianism on borderline trends among university students. Numerous researches have focused on the relationship between borderline personality disorder and early childhood trauma (Addelman 2019; Cattane et al., 2017). But there is animosity in research into parental trends as a parent and its effects on machiavellianism and borderline tendencies. Various personality disorders have been studied earlier e.g. antisocial personality disorder has been studied by various researchers in connection with childhood ill-treatment (Sondoiu, 2019). But not much research has been done on borderline personality disorder, so the purpose of the present study is to illuminate this important negative aspect of personality in university students. Internationally, there are plentiful researches on youngsters and adults (Hatta, 2013) while fewer research on young people is accessible in the Pakistani context (Masood, 2014) especially with regards to personality pathologies. Therefore, this research university focuses on finding young adults in particular.

Method

Objectives

The current research intends to explore the role of parenting styles and Machiavellianism in borderline tendencies among university students. Consequently the study has following broader objectives:

1. To examine the relationship among parenting styles and Machiavellianism in borderline tendencies among university students.

2. To determine the role of various demographics (including age, gender, and year of study) in the context of study variables.

Hypotheses

H1 a. Authoritative parenting style is negatively linked to authoritarian and permissive parenting styles

H1 b. Authoritarian parenting style is positively linked with permissive parenting style.

H2. Authoritative parenting style is negatively related to Machiavellianism and borderline personality tendencies.

H3. Authoritarian and permissive parenting styles are positively connected to Machiavellianism and borderline personality tendencies.

H4. Girls are likely to be high on authoritative parenting and low on Machiavellianism and borderline personality tendencies as compared to the boys.

H5. Students having parents with lower education expressed more perceptions of authoritarian and permissive parenting and higher inclinations of Machiavellianism and borderline personality tendencies.

Sample

A convenient sample of the present study was consists of ($N=200$) university students, including both boys ($n= 100$) and girls ($n= 100$) from all over Pakistan of both private and public sector universities. Age ranges of students valid from 18 to 29 years. Education level of students include Undergraduates ($n= 125$), Graduates ($n = 75$). Sample size is small because the data collected was through Google forms due to Covid 19 situation less sample was approachable.

Table 1

Demographic description of sample of main study (N=200)

Demographics	<i>f</i>	(%)
Age (years)		
18-21	80	40
22-25	110	55
26-29	10	5
Gender		
Male	100	50
Female	100	50
Education		
Graduate	75	37.5
Under Graduate	125	62.5
Birth order		
First	66	33
Middle	70	35
Last	64	32

The sample was selected online from all over the Pakistan randomly. The demographic information includes age, gender, and respondent's education, number of siblings and birth order of respondent.

Instruments

In the present study three measures were used to assess the three major construct of the study. These are as follows:

Parental Authority Questionnaire. Parental Authority Questionnaire was developed by Buri(1991) to measure Baumrind's parental typologies (authoritative, authoritarian and permissive). It consists of 30 items (per parent) and each typology contains ten items (permissive, authoritarian and authoritative), scores for both mother and father; each of these scores is derived from phenomenological appraisal of parent's authority by their son or daughter. It's a 5 point likert scale, ranging from 1 = *strongly disagree* to 5 = *strongly agree*. The total reliability of the scale is .89 as reported by Buri (1991): .78 for mothers'

authoritativeness.81 for mothers' authoritarianism.81 for mothers' permissiveness, .92 for fathers' authoritativeness, .85 for fathers' authoritarianism and .78 for fathers' permissiveness (Buri, 1991). There was no reversed scoring. Score's possible range was 0-50 for each subscale. The scale was available in open access to use for research purpose without any formal permission from author or Publication Company. High score on each subscale shows parent's preferred type of parenting (i.e. authoritative, authoritarian or permissive).

Machiavellianism subscale from Short Dark Triad. In the present study we used machiavellinism subscale from Short Dark Triad (Paulhus& Jones, 2011). It's a multidimensional scale including traits like reputation, cynicism, coalition building and planning. It's a 5-point likert scale, ranging from 1 = *strongly disagree* to 5 = *strongly agree*. The total possible score was 0-65. High scores (above cutoff score 8) show the inclination towards the machiavellistic tendencies in an individual. The alpha reliability of the scale was .77 (Paulhus& Jones, 2011). The scale was not openly available; we got the permission from author by email.

Zanarini Rating Scale for Borderline Personality Disorder. For the assessment of borderline tendencies among university students Zanarini Rating Scale for Borderline Personality Disorder (Zanarini, 2003) was used. Zanarini Rating Scale for Borderline Personality Disorder is the scale that has been used for non-clinical population to measure borderline tendencies borderline, developed by. It consists of 10 items. It was a dichotomous scale suggesting Yes or No as possible options to choose. The possible score ranges from 0-10. A score of 8 or more is indicative of a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder. The reliability of the scale is .85 (Zanarini, 2003). The scale was available in open access without any formal permission from author or the publication company.

Demographic Sheet

A comprehensive demographic sheet was being formulated in order to understand their corresponding relationship with descriptive of the study. Demographic sheet provides inclusive information about age, gender, respondents' education, number of siblings and respondents' birth order.

Procedure

In order to carry out the study an online form was developed using a website known as Google forms. Then the form was uploaded in different social sites and sent to students individually. The participants who participated in the study were informed about the entire process. They were clearly told about the purpose of the study and method to fill the data as accurately as possible. The link of the form was sent to each participant containing the questionnaires based on study variables and requested to fill the form properly, honestly and accurately. There was no time restriction to complete the form.

Consent Form

A consent form was attached with the form and had made sure that their information will be kept confidential. It was also briefed that they have right to quit if they felt uneasy to give their information at any time. Participants were also guaranteed that the information provided by them would be only use for research purpose.

Written instructions were given to the respondents to fill the questionnaire appropriately and accurately. A thank you note was attached at the end of the online form to thank them for their time and cooperation they had showed towards the study. Subsequent to the data collection procedure, analyses were performed with different statistical procedures.

Results

The statistical analysis consists of descriptive and inferential statistics; in descriptive statistics it includes mean, standard deviation, skewness, range and Cronbach's α . whereas in inferential statistics Pearson product moment correlation, multiple linear regression t-test and ANOVA were included. The reliability of the scales was determined by chronbach's alpha reliability coefficient. Pearson's product moment correlations were calculated to determine the relationship between study variables i.e. parenting styles and borderline tendencies. Independent sample t-test was also calculated to determine the mean differences across gender and academic achievement i.e. year of education. Multiple Linear regression was also calculated for the subscales of parenting authority questionnaire for the prediction of borderline tendencies. ANOVA was calculated to determine the differences along age groups.

Alpha Reliability Coefficient and Descriptive Statistics

Alpha reliability coefficient and descriptive statistics ($N=200$) of Parenting Authority Questionnaire and its subscales i.e. permissive, authoritarian and authoritative, Machiavellianism subscale from Short Dark Triad and Zanarini Rating Scale for Borderline Personality Disorder were computed.

Table 2

Descriptive Statistics and Alpha Coefficient of Scales (N=200)

Scales	No. of items	α	M	SD	Skew.	Kurt	Range	
							Potential	Actual
Authoritarian Subscale	10	.71	35.74	7.72	-.31	-.54	10-50	17-48
Authoritative Subscale	10	.76	39.34	6.62	-.98	-.54	10-50	16-50
Permissive Subscale	10	.78	36.21	6.89	-.33	.17	10-50	16-46
Machiavellianism Scale	13	.76	46.94	7.40	-1.09	.40	13-65	13-63
ZAN(BPD)	10	.87	15.74	2.80	.78	.93	10-20	10-18

Note. ZAN (BPD) = Zanarini Rating scale of Borderline Personality Disorder.

Table 2 illustrates that all the scales i.e. Parenting Authority Questionnaire its subscales, machiavellianism subscale and Zanarini Rating Scale of Borderline Personality Disorder shows acceptable to high reliability coefficients ranging from .71 to .87. The reliabilities overall were good and acceptable. Mean and standard deviations are computed to determine the general average scores of participants on particular scale used in this study. The highest mean value among the subscales of Parenting Authority Questionnaire is for authoritative parenting style and the least mean value is for authoritarian parenting style which explains the maximum and the minimum reporting by students on these scales respectively. While Machiavellianism subscale shows the highest mean among all the scales which shows that participants responded high on it. The value of standard deviation is highest for machiavellianism that is 7.40 which shows that the variability among responses is more prominent in this scale and least value of standard deviation is for authoritative parenting style which shows the homogeneity of responses on this scale. The skewness values indicates how much the distribution of scores for a variable deviates from normal distribution. Skewness and Kurtosis values ranges from -1 to +1 which indicates the data is normally distributed. The maximum and minimum values are given in the actual range.

Correlation Between Parenting Styles and Borderline Tendencies

To explore the connection between parenting styles and its subscales i.e. permissive, authoritative and authoritarian and borderline personality tendencies Pearson's Product Moment Correlation was computed (see Table 3).

Table 3*Correlation Matrix for all Study Variables (N = 200)*

Variables	1	2	3	4	5
1 Authoritative Parenting Style	-	-.45*	-.49**	-.30**	-.36**
2 Authoritarian Parenting Style		-	.52*	.49**	.27*
3 Permissive Parenting Style			-	.29*	.28*
4 Machiavellianism				-	.34**
5 Borderline Personality Tendencies					-

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$

Table 3 shows results of Pearson product correlation implying the direction and strength of relationship among the study variables. It has been found that authoritative parenting style is significantly negatively related to Machiavellianism and borderline personality tendencies, authoritarian and permissive parenting styles are positively connected to Machiavellianism and borderline personality tendencies. This table also exhibits the construct validity of parenting styles model in which authoritative parenting style is negatively linked to authoritarian and permissive parenting styles while permissive and authoritative parenting styles are positively linked.

Role of Parenting Styles and its Subscales as Predictors for the Borderline Personality Tendencies

Multiple linear regression was done to check the most significant predictor of borderline tendencies among parenting styles and its entire subscales including permissive, authoritative and authoritarian (see Table 4)

Table 4

*Multiple Linear Regression for Subscales of Parenting Authority Questionnaire in
Predicting Borderline Tendencies (N = 200)*

Variables	B	S.E	p	95% CI	
				LL	UL
Constant	11.95	2.36	.00	7.29	16.61
Age	.40	.09	.00	1.33	2.31
Authoritative Parenting Style	-.30	.04	.01	1.07	3.04
Authoritarian Parenting Style	.41	.03	.00	1.06	2.08
Permissive Parenting Style	.44	.05	.00	1.15	2.49
Machiavellianism	.55	.04	.00	1.10	2.01
R ²	.23				
Adjusted R ²	.21				
F	24.23		.00		

Table 4 illustrates multiple linear regression analysis with parenting styles and Machiavellianism as predictor variable of borderline personality tendencies among university students. The table shows that the study variable of permissive component of parenting authority questionnaire has a significant effect upon borderline personality tendencies. The table suggests that 40% of total variance explained in borderline personality tendencies is significantly predicted by parenting styles and Machiavellianism. It reveals that parenting styles and Machiavellianism will have impact on borderline personality tendencies.

Differences across Gender on Parenting Styles, Machiavellianism and Borderline Personality Tendencies

Independent sample *t*-test was computed along gender differences on parenting styles Machiavellianism and borderline personality tendencies.

Table 5*Differences Across Gender on Study Variables (N = 200)*

Variables	Boys (n = 100)		Girls (n = 100)		t (198)	p	95% CI		Cohen's d
	M	SD	M	SD			LL	UL	
Authoritative Parenting Style	38.70	7.04	41.86	6.17	2.02	.04	1.92	2.73	.47
Authoritarian Parenting Style	37.20	7.42	34.23	7.73	2.16	.03	1.03	2.81	.39
Permissive Parenting Style	36.58	7.83	33.92	5.78	2.07	.04	1.01	2.72	.38
Machiavellianism	50.04	7.34	46.59	8.62	2.47	.01	-1.08	-2.76	.43
Borderline Personality Tendencies	18.53	3.09	15.94	7.50	3.35	.01	1.02	2.32	.44

Table 5 shows the gender differences across the study variables. This table shows mean scores, deviation and t-scores of girls and boys on parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian and permissive), Machiavellianism and borderline personality tendencies.

There are significant difference in boys and girls on permissive component of parenting styles. Results show that boys score significantly higher than girls on permissive and authoritarian component of parenting styles and women score higher on authoritative component of parenting styles. This subsequently results in the higher score on borderline tendencies, means that boys are more vulnerable to develop the borderline tendencies. Literature shows that a lot of previous researches indicate that women are more prone to borderline disorder some shows no difference and some show that men are more vulnerable towards developing the symptoms of borderline disorder (Disord, 2016).

Differences across Academic Achievement on Parenting Styles and Borderline Tendencies

Independent sample t-test was computed along academic achievement (year of education) on parenting styles and developing the borderline tendencies.

Table 6

Difference along Education on Study Variables (N = 200)

Variables	Undergraduate		Graduate		<i>t</i> (198)	<i>P</i>	95%CI		<i>Cohen's d</i>
	<i>(n = 125)</i>		<i>(n = 75)</i>				<i>LL</i>	<i>UL</i>	
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>					
Authoritative Parenting Style	49.29	6.72	39.26	6.72	2.15	.03	1.03	2.83	.49
Authoritarian Parenting Style	32.26	9.66	36.77	7.68	2.02	.04	1.01	2.81	.41
Permissive Parenting Style	39.24	9.12	36.67	6.66	2.26	.02	1.02	2.89	.31
Machiavellianism	43.18	8.55	43.21	7.40	2.04	.04	1.01	2.79	.50
Borderline Personality Tendencies	15.28	18.39	15.48	4.02	2.01	.05	1.04	2.26	.43

Table 6 shows the education differences across the study variables. The table also shows mean scores, deviation and t-scores of students on parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian and permissive) and borderline tendencies. Table illustrates that there are significant differences between undergraduate and graduate students. The table further shows that students in junior education group reported more perceived positive parenting (authoritative) than those in senior education group while the students of senior education group reported more

perceived negative parenting. Table 6 also reveals that graduate students show more machiavellianism and borderline tendencies than undergraduate students.

Discussion

The current research aims to explore the role of Parenting Styles and Machiavellianism in Borderline Tendencies among University Students. Another aim was to explore the role of demographics (age, gender, education). The sample consisted of university students. The age ranges between 18 to 29 years and selected online from the private and public sector universities all over Pakistan. The main study was conducted on sample ($N=200$). The frequencies and percentages were obtained for the entire sample to develop a better understanding of the sample characteristics on the study variables (see Table 1). Therefore, the purpose of this chapter is to discuss of the results, limitations of the present study and suggestions. The reliability of the scales was found to be significant and satisfactory in desired direction (see Table 2). The skewness and kurtosis of the scales were computed in the table 2 which shows that the data is normally distributed. According to Kim (2013) and Masood (2014) the value of skewness less than 2 and kurtosis less than 7 is acceptable and shows normal distribution of scores and parametric testing can be done on it. Following the previous stance of researches the data was considered for parametric testing. Pearson's correlation analyses were conducted in order to explore the relationship among different types of parenting styles (permissive, authoritative and authoritarian), machiavellianism and borderline tendencies (see Table 3). Findings show that the authoritative component of the parenting style is negatively linked with the authoritarian and permissive component of parenting style and hence supports H1 (a) and it is also supported by literature as indicated by Diana Baumrind (as cited in Lang &Abell, 2018). And the results also shows the negative relationship between authoritarian and permissive component of parenting styles, hence

supported H1 (b) and also supported in the literature by Baumrind (as cited in Morin, 2019).

The hypothesis H2 states that the authoritative parenting style is negatively linked to Machiavellianism and borderline tendencies. The findings indicated the negative relationship between authoritative components of parenting style with borderline tendencies (see Table 3). Thereby it supported the hypothesis H2. This is also supported by literature and supported by the findings of Thairovic and Bajric (2016). An assessment lead by Keinänen, Johnson, Richards and Courtney (2012) focused largely on the psychosocial factors that are probable to contribute to development of borderline personality disorder. Their review illustrated that with other variables, anxiety-related parenting patterns were significantly linked with the development of borderline personality disorder. In addition, hate speech against children, absence of parental love, denial of the right to feelings and emotions, parent's failure to protect the child, as well as physical and emotional abuse were related with the development of personality disorder.

The hypothesis H3 of the present study states that authoritarian and permissive parenting styles are positively connected to Machiavellianism and borderline tendencies. The results of the study also indicated the positive connection between permissive and authoritative components of parenting styles with Machiavellianism and borderline personality tendencies (see Table 3). Thereby it supports the third hypothesis H3 and same pattern of results were found in previous researches for instance Steele et al., (2019) found that maladaptive parenting is a psychosocial risk for developing the tendencies of borderline personality disorder. The literature also supports the negative relationship between Machiavellianism and borderline personality tendencies e.g. in a research conducted with normal university students, they found the positive

relationship between Machiavellianism and borderline personality symptoms (Láng, 2015).

Linear regression analyses were done to compute the predictive role of various parenting styles in relation to machiavellianism and borderline tendencies (see Table 4). The results show that the negative components of parenting styles are positively significant predictors of borderline tendencies and i.e. permissive parenting style is a significant positive predictor of borderline tendencies. The same pattern of results are suggested in the literature as Ijeoma et al. (2016) found that the parental negligence or the over possessiveness of parents can lead to behavioral problems, pathologies, hostility, aggression, poor mental health and personality problems in adulthood. This means that the negative components of parenting styles are good predictors of borderline tendencies. The table also suggests 40% of total variance are explained in borderline tendencies is significantly predicted by parenting styles and machiavellianism.

Analysis indicated that the authoritative and permissive components of parenting styles are significantly and positively predicting the borderline tendencies and machiavellianism (see Table 4). This means that Machiavellianism is a predicting factor which can lead to borderline tendencies. Machiavellianism being a strong predictor of borderline personality disorder, supported in the literature for instance as reported by Vossen et al. (2017).

The study also aims to explore the role of various demographics (age, gender, education) with the study variables. Table 5 shows the gender differences across the study variables. The findings showed that boys are more prone to develop the borderline tendencies than girls hence proving H4, findings are also supported by previous literature and reported by Disord (2016). Hassan (2018) found that boys are four times more likely to develop the tendencies of borderline personality disorder.

Table 6 shows the mean differences for year of education across the study variables. The study found significant differences between undergraduate and graduate students. The findings showed that students in junior education group reported more perceived positive parenting (authoritative) than those in senior education group. Table 6 also reveals that graduate students show more Machiavellian tendencies and borderline personality tendencies than undergraduate students. Meany, Hasking and Reupert (2015) did a research on graduate and under graduate student and they found that graduate students possess more borderline tendencies than undergraduate students. Same pattern of results were found by Townsend et al. (2018).

Limitations and Suggestions

Despite of being able to highlight the role of parenting styles in prevailing the borderline tendencies the present study has few limitations which may restrict the generalization of the findings. Firstly, the data has been collected online so we had few or no control conditions. The online data collection restricted the sample size as well. The sample was consisted of only 200 university students this restricts the generalizability across Pakistan. Secondly, the method of self-report measure resulted in high social desirability with acquiescence response style these methods were also affected by the subjectivity of participants such as their method at time of filling of the self-report questionnaire of Machiavellianism can increase the subjective biasness of the students. For the enhancement of the future researches, the researchers should go for a bigger sample. Secondly, the scales used in the present study should be translated into Urdu, so the participants can easily understand the statements. Future researcher should be made to understand the cultural differences. Other techniques like interview or projective techniques should be used to validate the information given by the participant. It was a retrospective study participants had to recall their past memories to answer the

questions. It can be difficult for the participant to retrieve the past memories or they hide the real ones or they can forget many past memories. So for such type of studies longitudinal studies should be planned. Also university students should be explored with their friendship patterns.

Implications

The present research has definitely some benefits in different areas of daily life. Effects of parenting styles and different parenting behaviors is not only restricted to mental health of children and adults but it also have some impacts on personality of individual which can lead to different personality pathologies, but it is usually neglected in fact it is taken as a norm. The role of different types of parenting styles and its effects on the personality of young adults is an important implication of this research. This study focuses on the development of problems in personality i.e. borderline personality tendencies in university students as a result of negative parenting styles. This research can successfully give the awareness that neglecting children or over controlling them have dependable consequences for developing the tendencies of personality pathologies and can be explored in normal population as well as in clinical settings without labeling the individual. This study will help the parents to understand the sensitivity of their children. This research will be helpful in clinical settings, counseling and guidance. This research will also be helpful in providing a new direction for exploring personality pathologies in normal populations and can also be implicated in planning and preventive program.

Conclusion

Overall, the present study aimed to investigate the role of parenting styles and Machiavellianism in borderline tendencies. In this study, we have found that the role parenting style in predicting the borderline tendencies as the previous literature suggested. This research focused the borderline tendencies which can be cause of many other pathologies, segregation and mal behavior. The research also

showed that the exposure of child to negative parenting styles i.e. permissive and authoritarian can cause borderline tendencies in adulthood. The findings indicated that among other intervening factors the negative parenting styles are the prominent risk factors. This means that the exposure to negative parenting styles in childhood can increase the chances to avail the tendencies of borderline personality disorder in adulthood. The study also revealed that the borderline personality tendencies start in early adulthood and increase with age. Along with it the study results showed that men are more vulnerable towards developing the borderline tendencies than women. However the education (year of education) does not show any significant effects.

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