



Comparison of Aggression, Academic Failure and Maladjustment in Children of Families with High and Low Population

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ABSTRACT: The purpose of the present study is making comparison of aggression, academic failure, and maladjustment between the children of big and small families. In this causal-comparative research, 60 families (30 big and 30 small families) were selected using purposive sampling technique. Research instrument included researcher-made questionnaire. The results from the study showed that aggression, academic failure, and maladjustment in children of big families were significantly greater.

Key Words: Aggression, Academic Failure Maladjustment, Families with High and Low Population

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INTRODUCTION

Every man needs life's basic amenities for survival and making good and exciting life. With the population growth in the country, the optimal use of existing facilities is demoted and so the life would become more difficult. Based on the previous studies, the smaller a family is, the better control on it is achieved and better facilities are provided for children to grow up and enter into the society. Family is one the fundamental and ancient entities of human societies, which approximately dates back to emergence of human. Due to its long history and several other reasons, this entity has taken different shapes-still, in different times and places, and some remnants of it can still be found around the world. Currently, nuclear family, composed of parents and children, is the dominant form in most countries. In addition to this dominant family form, there are other structures that based on their functionality impose serious and plenty of damages to family members, especially children, because family is one the most fundamental entities that plays a significant role in child development. Therefore, any damages to its structure and functionality harm its members [1].

A family with many children, usually with small age gap between siblings, is one of the traumatic family forms. In the big families, there is no time and ability for meeting financial, emotional, and educational needs of the children. Despite many attempts, father cannot properly cover the costs. It is difficult for mother, especially employed one who is continually working, to organize housework, as well. Consequently, both of them are frustrated and exhausted of the difficult life they provided for themselves as well as their children, and so they are not adequately patient with children's both reasonable and unreasonable requests. Stress, anxiety, and unrest are the characteristics of such families. Due to emotional gap and unrest in bigger families, children are more oriented to external environment and other people. Regarding the dangers from society and their vulnerability, children are affected by emotional, mental, social, and other types of problems [2].

Among the problems of big families is the lack of attention to the children and its consequences, such as lack of equal recreational and educational facilities for all of them as well as economic difficulties; while, a small family can provides children better and so ensure the health of society [3].

In different studies, the effects of family population on behavioral, emotional, and cognitive characteristics of children have been investigated. In one of them, it was shown that teenagers in small families exhibited greater emotional intelligence than those in big families [4]. In other studies, the number of family members have identified as a risk factor for disorders. For example, Tavakkoli [5] in a study showed a significant correlation between number of family members and hyperactivity disorder. In addition, Iranpoor [6] reported a difference in behavioral disorders between children of small and big families. Calvin et al. [7], also in a prospective study reported a significant correlation between behavioral disorders and number of family members. These findings are confirmed in the studies by Yousefi [8], McCracon [9], and Handren and Mullen [10]. Sardarpour Godarzi et al., [11] in a research reported greater level of behavioral disorder in families with several children than single-child families.

Based on the present research, it was attempted to compare aggression, academic failure, and maladjustment problems of children in big and small families and provide relevant solutions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

It is a causal-comparative research which usually refers to where the researcher investigates the possible causes of its occurrence with respect to the dependent variables. In other words, it is a retrospective study which tries to realize the possible reason from the cause [12]. The research population was selected from families in Bandar Abbas, using purposive sampling. For this, 30 big families (with more than 5 children) and 30 small families (with less than 2 children) were investigated. While the selection was carried out randomly at first, but those who did not conform to above mentioned criteria were excluded, regarding the study's objective .

To collect data about aggression, academic failure, and maladjustment in children of small and big families, researcher-made questionnaire was used. It was comprise of 18 questions, every six of them were assigned to one of the mentioned problems. For scaling responses, Likert-type scale with a set of five items was employed. Scores ranged from 6 to 30 for each subscale and 18 to 90 for the total scale. The content validity of the questionnaire was determined with appropriate level, using comments from family Consulting Center consultants. The reliability was calculated at 0.79 .

For data analysis, mean and standard deviation were used in descriptive statistics section. In addition, multivariate analysis of variance was employed in illative section. The statistic calculations of the present study ware performed using SPSS18.

RESULTS

As mentioned in the previous section, mean and standard deviation of the investigated variables in Small and Big families were calculated in the descriptive section. The results are presented in Table 1.

As illustrated in Table 1, the means (and standard deviation) of variable *aggression* in small and big families were 10.25 (1.45) and 14.25 (3.12), respectively. Similar results were obtained for two other variables, namely academic failure and maladjustment.

In reference to research hypotheses testing, multivariate analysis of variance was used. To evaluate the homogeneity of variance of the dependent variables, Levene's test was deployed. The results are presented in Table 2. As can be seen in Table 2, Levene's test for none of the variables is significant. Consequently, the hypothesis maintaining homogeneity of variables is confirmed. The results from MANOVA test are presented in Table 3.

Table 1. The mean and standard deviation of the investigated variables in small and big families

Family type	Variables	Mean	Standard deviation	Maximum	Minimum
Small	Aggression	10.25	1.45	14	8
	Academic failure	8.45	2.31	13	7
	Maladjustment	9.87	2.56	12	9
Big	Aggression	14.25	3.12	14	9
	Academic failure	12.45	1.98	15	8
	maladjustment	13.87	2.11	15	9

Table 2. Levene's test for investigating homogeneity of variances

Variable	F	First degree of freedom	Second degree of freedom	Significant level
Aggression	1.27	1	44	0.26
Academic failure	2.27	1	4	0.13
maladjustment	0.28	1	44	0.59

Table 3. Summary of results from applying multivariate variance analysis on the scores of research's dependent variables

Trace	Test	Value	F	df hypothesis	df error	Significance level	Trace size
	Pillai's trace	0.48	11.99	3	39	0.0001	0.99
	Wilks' Lambda	0.52	11.99	3	39	0.0001	0.99
	Hotelling's trace	0.92	11.99	3	39	0.0001	0.99
	Roy's Largest root	0.92	11.99	3	39	0.0001	0.99

The contents of Table 3 show a significant difference between at least one of the dependent variables in the groups. For further investigation on this difference, one-way MANOVA was carried out. The results from the analysis are presented in Table 4. It depicts the results from one-way MANOVA for making comparison between the scores of the variables in two groups.

Table 4. Results from applying one-way MANOVA on the scores of dependent variables

Trace	Dependent variable	Sum of squares	Degree of freedom	Mean of squares	F	Significance level	Trace size
	Aggression	124.08	1	124.08	9.34	0.001	0.85
	Academic failure	21.62	1	21.62	6.31	0.001	0.69
	maladjustment	42.10	1	42.10	9.29	0.001	0.85

The results provided in Table 4 show that one-way analysis of variances are significant in reference to variables *aggression* ($F=9.34, p=0.001$), *academic failure* ($F=6.31, p=0.001$), and *maladjustment* ($F=9.29, p=0.001$).

To understand this difference, it is enough to compare the means of small and big families with respect to their dependent variables. Regarding the results in Table 1, mean scores of variables *aggression*, *academic failure*, and *maladjustment* are significantly higher in big families. Therefore, all research hypotheses are confirmed.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the present study is to make comparison between the degree of aggression, academic failure, and maladjustment in children of big and small families. The results indicate that the levels of aggression, academic failure, and maladjustment were significantly higher in big families. The outputs of the present study are in accordance with those of previous investigations [7, 8, 9, 10, and 11].

One possible explanation for the obtained results suggests that the size of big families prevents parents from adequately addressing breeding and growth of their children. One reason for academic failure of children in larger families arises from parental negligence in children academic affairs [13].

The results from the present research showed that the level of aggression and maladjustment is significantly higher in big families. Different studies have shown that children in big families faced with inadequate resources, further, which causes more aggressive behaviors and maladjustment by them [14].

The results from the present study provide families with necessary insight so that they can address the effects of family size on the growth and behavior modification of their children, fully informed. It is recommended to address the effect of family size on variables such as creativity, self-esteem, and self-efficiency of the children in future studies.

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