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Investigation of Perceived Parental Attitude (Perceived Parental Autonomy Support and Psychological Control) on Life Orientation: Considering the Moderating Effect of Perceived Body Dysmorphic Symptoms Among Adolescents and Young Adult Females

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Abstract: This study aimed at impact of perceived parental attitude on life orientation with moderating role of body dysmorphic symptoms. Perceived parental attitude comprised of parental autonomy support & psychological control to their child for development of individuality, self-regulation, and bodily construction that includes cognitive, social, and affective development. This perceived parental attitude have significant relationship with life orientation on individual's self. Data was collected from schools and universities residing in Islamabad and Rawalpindi and was also obtained through online survey. Instrument used to measure perceived parental attitude was Perceived Parental Autonomy Support Scale (PPASS). Through The Life Orientation Test (LOT-R) which was developed by Michael F. Scheier in 1994, level of optimism and pessimism was assessed. For measuring body dysmorphic disorder, the Body Dysmorphic Questionnaire (BDDQ) which was developed by Dr. Katherine A. Phillips in 2009, a screening scale was used. The present study includes a total sample size of (N= 100) females and was conducted through cross-sectional survey. The findings of current study suggested that perceived parental attitude showed negative relationship with life orientation and this relationship was moderated by body dysmorphic disorder symptoms in females. There was significant age difference in body dysmorphia, perceived parental attitude, and life orientation. Body dysmorphic symptoms were more common in females with age 20-29 (M= 1.33, S.D=1.91) as compared to 12-19 (M=1.16, S.D=1.95). Participants also reported that affected relationship with either parent caused problems in daily life, including school, public interactions and activities leading to low dispositional optimism in life orientation. This study gives us insight about maintaining factors for body dysmorphic disorder symptoms which is beneficial for therapeutic approaches.

Keywords: body dysmorphic disorder, perceived parental attitude, parental autonomy support, psychological control, dispositional optimism

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