

Friendship Love Orientation as Predictor of Attachment Style: A Gender Perspective

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Abstract : Secure attachment in childhood creates a healthy love attitude in the adulthood. Child secure attachment develops a positive relation attitude in their adulthood, similarly, anxiety-avoidant attachment develops negative attitude toward relations. The aim of this paper is twofold: 1) We investigate the relationship between Friendship Attitude and Attachment Styles; and 2) explore the impact of gender on Love Attitudes and Attachment styles. Data was collected by convincing sampling among the students of University of Management and Technology age group 18- 25. The sample consists 60 young adults (Male=36, Female =54). The Love Attitudes Scales subscale Storage was used to measure attitudes towards friendship love and The Experiences in Close Relationships-Revised questionnaire was used to measure Adult Attachment Style. The result of Independent T-Test analysis shows that there was no significant difference in anxiety for female and male conditions; $t(58) = -.768$, $p = .446$ and avoidance for female and male conditions; $t(58) = 1.63$, $p = .108$. Moreover, also there was no significant difference in friendship love for female ($M = 27.37$, $SD = 6.371$) and male ($M = 26.08$, $SD = 5.709$) conditions; $t(58) = -.820$, $p = .416$. Pearson correlation analysis shows significantly negative correlation between love attitude-friendship and attachment style- avoidance, ($r = -.433$, $p = .008$) among male and love attitude-friendship and attachment style- avoidance ($r = -.438$, $p = .032$) among female. There are no gender differences in attachment styles i.e. anxiety, avoidance and their relationship with friendship love attitude. People have avoidant attachment find it hard to fall in love and develop intimacy, and they tend to search for independence.

Keywords : avoidance attachment style, anxiety attachment style, friendship love attitude, gender difference/similarity

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