



# Direct and indirect effects of father-daughter relationship on adolescent girls' psychological outcomes: The role of basic psychological need satisfaction

Ali Serdar Sağkal\*, Yalçın Özdemir, Nermin Koruklu

Adnan Menderes University, Faculty of Education, Department of Counseling and Guidance, Central Campus, 09100 Aydın, Turkey

## ARTICLE INFO

### Keywords:

Father-daughter relationship  
Basic psychological need satisfaction  
Well-being  
Ill-being  
Adolescents

## ABSTRACT

Fathers play a salient role in the children's development, especially in daughters. In this study, we examined the direct and indirect effects of father-daughter relationship on psychological outcomes of adolescent girls. A total of 310 adolescent girls aged between 14 and 18 ( $M = 15.88$ ,  $SD = 0.89$ ) of a Turkish population-based sample completed a battery of self-report surveys measuring perceptions related to father-daughter relationship, basic psychological need satisfaction, well-being, and ill-being. Structural equation modelling results indicated that father-daughter relationship is directly related to higher levels of well-being and lower levels of ill-being. Besides, results demonstrated that indirect effects of basic psychological need satisfaction on the link between father-daughter relationship and psychological outcomes were significant. These findings suggest that father-daughter relationship significantly influences mental health of adolescent girls and this effect is mediated by basic psychological need satisfaction. Implications for counseling interventions and recommendations for future research are discussed.

## 1. Introduction

Parenting practices and parent-child relationships have long been associated with a number of psychological outcomes for children and adolescents (see O'Connor & Scott, 2007; for a review). To date, the vast majority of research in this field has been primarily conducted with the participation of mothers and children. Father's role on child development, especially on daughters, was largely ignored (Flouri, 2005a; Lamb, 2010; Nielson, 2012, 2014). However, over the past two decades, there has been growing scholarly interest in fathering research (Adamsons & Palkovitz, 2014; Marsiglio, Amato, Day, & Lamb, 2000). Researchers are investigating how father-child relationships influence social, cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and physical outcomes of children (Day & Padilla-Walker, 2009; Flouri, 2005a). Preliminary evidences from western countries indicate that there is a positive relationship between nurturant father-daughter relationship and positive child adjustment (Nielson, 2012, 2014). It is also importantly emphasized that father-child relationship explains a large amount of variance in child outcomes, over and above the mother-child relationship (e.g., Flouri & Buchanan, 2003a; Flouri, 2005a; Nielson, 2014; Rohner, 1998; Videon, 2005). Nevertheless, although there are some evidences regarding the association between father-daughter relationship and child adjustment in western cultures, it is not known yet whether these associations are replicated across cultures. Additionally, it is also needed to explore through which pathway father-daughter relationship influence child outcomes. To this aim, the present study first aims to investigate how father-daughter

\* Corresponding author. Adnan Menderes University, Faculty of Education, Department of Counseling and Guidance, Central Campus, 09100, Aydın, Turkey.

E-mail addresses: [alisedarsagkal@gmail.com](mailto:alisedarsagkal@gmail.com) (A.S. Sağkal), [yalcin.ozdemir@adu.edu.tr](mailto:yalcin.ozdemir@adu.edu.tr) (Y. Özdemir), [nonerkoruklu@gmail.com](mailto:nonerkoruklu@gmail.com) (N. Koruklu).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2018.07.001>

Received 29 April 2018; Accepted 2 July 2018

0140-1971/ © 2018 The Foundation for Professionals in Services for Adolescents. Published by Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

relationship is directly related to adolescent girls' psychological outcomes, namely, well-being and ill-being in a non-western culture. Secondly, indirect effects of father-daughter relationship on adolescent girls' psychological outcomes via the mechanism of basic psychological need satisfaction were tested.

### 1.1. Father-child relationships and children's adjustment

Although mothers still tend to spend more time and build more close relationships with their children, compared to previous decades, fathers now tend to involve more actively in the child-rearing processes (Cabrera, Tamis-LeMonda, Bradley, Hofferth, & Lamb, 2000; Lewis & Lamb, 2003; Nielson, 2012, 2014). Today, breadwinner role in the family is commonly shared by both partners and fathers are expected to spend more time with their children, to be more accessible for them, and to conduct child-care responsibilities in the family system (Cabrera et al., 2000; Lamb, 2000; Marsiglio et al., 2000). Therefore, in recent years, researchers changed their focus from father's moral leadership, gender role modelling, and his absence or presence in the family structure to nature and process of fatherhood. Current social, cultural, and legal shifts lead today's parents to reconstruct the fatherhood not only in western societies but also in eastern cultures. New set of living conditions push today's fathers to commit more on parenting as opposed to just being a helper to mother in child-care process (Nielson, 2014). Even such progresses related to status of contemporary fatherhood, it must be also acknowledged that there is still a significant distance that must be traversed by twenty-first-century fathers (Lewis & Lamb, 2007). Nevertheless, evidence suggests that from infancy to adulthood, warm, close, and responsive father-child relationships have diverse and significant influences on children's adjustment, especially on daughters. During adolescence, positive father-child communication is associated with greater self-esteem, better school adjustment, lower depression, and substance use (Bireda & Pillay, 2018). Cross-sectional research results also demonstrate that increased father involvement is associated with higher levels of psychological well-being (Flouri & Buchanan, 2003a; Kuzucu & Özdemir, 2013; Videon, 2005), lower levels of emotional (Flouri, 2005b; Kuzucu & Özdemir, 2013), and behavioral problems (Flouri & Buchanan, 2003b; Flouri, 2005b; Kuzucu & Özdemir, 2013). Longitudinal research results also confirm the salient role of fathers on child development. For example, research using 16-year data from the Bielefeld Longitudinal Study has demonstrated that father-infant relationship qualities predict children's attachment patterns at ages 10 and 16 (Grossman et al., 2002). In another longitudinal study, it was shown that parent-adolescent bond is associated with greater well-being, lower ill-being, and suicidal thoughts, especially in daughters (van Wel, Linssen, & Abma, 2000). Furthermore, it was also revealed that emotionally close parent-child relationships during adolescence and early adulthood years longitudinally predicted greater self-esteem 17 and 20 years later for both sons and daughters (Roberts & Bengtson, 1996). Apart from adolescence, it is also emphasized that the quality of father-daughter relationship is linked with a number of adult daughter outcomes, such as higher academic and vocational success, higher levels of secure partner attachment, greater romantic relationship satisfaction, more self-esteem, making healthful sexual decisions, as well as lower levels of depression, anxiety, stress, and eating disorders (see Nielson, 2014, for a review). Overall, it can be clearly concluded that the quality of father-child relationships contributes importantly to children's adjustment in multiple domains, especially for daughters.

### 1.2. Basic psychological need satisfaction as a potential mediating mechanism

One possible mechanism accounting the links between father-daughter relationship and adolescent girls' adjustment might be basic psychological need satisfaction. Basic Psychological Needs Theory (BPNT) as a one of the mini theories of Self-Determination Theory (SDT) posits that there are three innate basic psychological needs for growth, functioning, and well-being regardless of gender and culture (Deci & Ryan, 2012). These three basic psychological human needs are namely, autonomy, relatedness, and competence. The need for autonomy refers to the experience of volition, feeling of freedom, to be able to choose from among choices, and make one's own decisions. The need for relatedness refers to having significant, genuine, warm, responsive, caring, intimate, and reciprocal relationships with important others. The need for competence refers to the experience of efficacy in one's pursuits, tasks, and outcomes. It is proposed that while satisfaction of these three basic needs improves optimal psychological growth, integrity, and well-being, frustration of basic needs leads to psychological ill-being and even psychopathology (Deci & Ryan, 2000; Ryan & Deci, 2000, 2017; Vansteenkiste & Ryan, 2013). BPNT suggests that social context, particularly parents, play crucial role on either in supporting or thwarting these basic psychological needs (Ryan & Deci, 2017). Recent research in BPNT (e.g., Costa, Cuzzocrea, Gugliandolo, & Larcán, 2016; Costa, Soenens, Gugliandolo, Cuzzocrea, & Larcán, 2015; van der Kaap-Deeder, Vansteenkiste, Soenens, & Mabbe, 2017) has revealed that while supportive parental behaviors are associated with need satisfaction, psychologically controlling parental behaviors are linked with need frustration in offspring. Further, empirical evidences also demonstrate that basic psychological need satisfaction is associated with positive adjustment outcomes (e.g., Costa et al., 2016, 2015; van der Kaap-Deeder et al., 2017). Regarding the link between supportive social contexts and need satisfaction and the link between need satisfaction and adjustment, it is possible that basic psychological need satisfaction might act as a mediating mechanism accounting the association between father-daughter relationship and adolescent girls' psychological adjustment. In accordance with BPNT, in this study, it is expected that father-daughter relationship improves adolescent girls' basic psychological need satisfaction, which in turn leads to higher levels of well-being and lower levels of ill-being.

### 1.3. The present study

While there has been growing scholarly interest in fatherhood for nearly two decades, there are still several gaps in understanding how father-child relationships, especially with daughters, is linked with child adjustment beyond western countries. So, further

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/7240640>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/7240640>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)