


**Personality traits and its relation to Psychological
Adaptation of illegitimate children and adolescents sample**

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Abstract:

The present paper aimed at investigating certain personality traits and its relation to psychological adjustment of a sample consisting of (25) illegitimate child and adolescent (14 child & 11 adolescent). The tools utilized were personality rating scale prepared by Mamdouh Salama, psychological adjustment scale prepared by the present researcher. Results of the study indicated that a positive significant correlation relationship was found between personality traits and psychological adjustment of the illegitimate children participants. Besides, a positive and significant correlation relationship was found between personality traits and psychological adjustment of the illegitimate adolescent participants. It was also possible to detect a significant difference between illegitimate children and adolescents in personality traits and psychological adjustment.

Key words:

Personality traits, Psychological adaptation, illegitimate children, illegitimate adolescents





Introduction


Both developed and developing countries are suffering from the phenomenon of illegitimate children. This phenomenon is attributed to various economic, social, political, environmental and familial reasons which are interacting to pave the way in front of the widespread and increase of that phenomenon (Ibrahem, 2005, P.11).

Family is regarded as the first social institution in which the protection, care and socialization is provided for the individual since early years of infancy till adulthood. Additionally, family secures the stability, harmony and love among its members. Child deprivation of his family shakes his/her self-esteem and disturbs his/her social relationships. In addition, the early deprivation of mother weakens self-confidence and confidence in the surrounding others (Zaqout & Abu-Duqa, 2012, P. 2).

The adolescence is considered one of the most important stages in the human life owing to the intervening changes and transformations either in the biological, affective, or social life. It is actually the stage of personality maturation (Al-Serhi, 2002, P. 97).

Each developmental stage has its importance in the human life and future adaptation. In the early years of his/her life, the child gains much experience that enables him/her to properly grow and adapt on condition that the family atmosphere is secure, sympathetic and supportive (Dawood, 2004, P. 52). Adolescence (the period that begins with puberty and ends with adulthood) is a critical phase that is full of desires and contradictions. Besides, it shapes the personality traits of the human being as reported by many psychologists. It is described as a transition period between childhood and manhood consisting of various changes in biological, cognitive, social and affective aspects (Asaad, 1986, P.59).

Investigation of Personality traits and its relation to Psychological adjustment of illegitimate children and adolescents is of much importance for the investigators in this field because both childhood and adolescence is of great importance in the human being life and children are considered the hope of the future and tomorrow's men.



Through his work in teaching Psychology and his actual reality observations, the present investigator, noticed that the illegitimate children and adolescents are permanently sad, upset, lonely, and secluded in spite of the outstanding importance of the children and adolescents sectors in the society. The population of the study sample, as viewed by the present researcher, is plagued with a fatal catastrophe which is the deprivation from their parents and ignorance of their real identities. That is why; the present author is motivated to identify the personality traits of illegitimate participants and its relationship with their psychological adaptation.

Study Problem

Painful circumstances of illegitimate children and adolescents have motivated the author to tackle this problem since those bad conditions negatively affect their personality traits and psychological adaptation. The need to be secure, accepted and loved by others in a stable and safe familial atmosphere are basic needs of those individuals (Zahran, 2000, P.436).

"The consequences for illegitimate children could be severe. Historically they have been at greater risk of poverty and exclusion and historians have observed a 'mortality penalty' across societies. As Alice Reid has found, in 1920s'England illegitimate children were 40 percent more likely to die in infancy than legitimate ones, reflecting the poverty and vulnerability of single mothers" (Gibson, 2018, P.16).

Griswold, Wiltse & Roberts (1966, P. 348) posited that illegitimate pregnancies are almost always accompanied by crippling defects of personality and intelligence. They also added that the birth of an illegitimate child will have the same negative implications for lower-class and minority group women as for the white middle and working-class girls who have been the subject of prior investigations.

Due to the fact that the family is the natural place of development starting from birth till death, it plays a pivotal role in enriching the child or adolescent personality through the proper socializing and the use of modern fruitful pedagogical methods (Alzaalan, 2015, P.3).

Personality traits are the unique dynamic aspect that characterize each person and identifies his/her ability to adapt because personality is an out product a permanent interaction among miscellaneous genetic and environmental factors since birth until death (Grace, 2010, P. 13).

Illegitimate children and adolescents are deprived of the family atmosphere that enriches their personality and satisfies their needs for love and security so they are at risk of social dangers, psychological panics, weak social intimacy, and feelings of scandal. That is why; they are subject to experiencing affective disturbances and future anxiety resulting in inability to adjust to the surrounding community. Thus, the present study attempted to investigate the personality traits of those children and adolescents and its relation to psychological adaptation.

The current research attempted to answer the following questions:

q1: Is there a statistically significant correlation between personality traits and psychological adaptation of the illegitimate children?

q2: Is there a statistically significant correlation between personality traits and psychological adaptation of the illegitimate adolescents?

q3: Are there statistically significant differences between illegitimate children and adolescents in psychological adaptation and personality traits?

q4: Can personality traits predict psychological adaptation of illegitimate children and adolescents?

Aims of the study

The present study aimed to investigate:

1. The correlation between personality traits and psychological adaptation of the illegitimate children.
2. The correlation between personality traits and psychological adaptation of illegitimate adolescents.
3. The differences between illegitimate children and adolescents in psychological adaptation and personality traits.
4. The possibility of using personality traits to predict psychological adaptation of illegitimate children and adolescents.

Study significance



Theoretical significance

The importance of the present study is reflected in the importance of the variables investigated. This study results may add new insights concerning illegitimate children and adolescents in the Saudi society. This study may contribute to achieve a deeper understanding of the nature of the correlation between personality traits and psychological adaptation of the illegitimate children and adolescents.

Practical significance

Results of this study may direct the parents, stakeholders and decision makers to the way of dealing with illegitimate children and adolescents and the effect of that treatment on their personalities. It may encourage psychologists and Sociologists to develop preventive and remedial interventions for marginalized illegitimate children and adolescents

Study limitations

Time limits: the tools of the study administered in the first semester of the scholastic year 2017/A.C, 1438-1439 /A.H

Place limits: The study was confined to the illegitimate children and adolescents in Riyadh

Topic limit: The study attempts to investigate the correlation relationship between personality traits and psychological adaptation of the illegitimate children and adolescents.

Definition of Terms

Psychological adaptation

Psychological adaptation refers to the behavioral process by which humans and other animals maintain equilibrium among their various needs or between their needs and the obstacles of their environments adjustment (Mahmood & Iqbal, 2015).

Illegitimate children

The illegal child is the child who comes from illegal sexual intercourse occurring outside or before legal marriage. He/she is called foundling (Al-Hams, 2011, P. 6). Ignorance, lack of awareness among youth and closeness among relatives have great role in the presence of illegitimate children phenomenon. Illegal conclave, provoking mass media, high dowries in KSA, lack of religious commitment, weak stickiness to customs & traditions, and weak sexual culture (Dahlan, 2007).

Literature Review

Personality was defined as all patterns of overt and covert behavior that enable us to predict the future behavior in certain situations. Personality consists of dynamic elements, temperamental traits, and intellectual abilities which identify the individual's ability to perform certain things represented in intelligence and special potentialities (Abbas, 1982). Davidof (1983) defined personality as "the consistent and sustainable patterns of perception, sensation, behavior and thinking which characterize people. It also incorporates ideas, motivation, emotions, tendencies, attitudes, and common abilities and traits" (P.570). Young defined personality as "the permanent characteristics of the person's behavior stemming from his/her unique or general experiences, inherited and environmental factors" (Al-Ashoul, 1990, P. 268).

Some researchers consider personality as "a set of characteristics that distinguish persons and identify his/her aptitude to interact and behave in certain ways" (Michael et al., 2005, P.35).


Psychological adaptation

Adaptation is a functional process aiming at making balance with environment (Mekhaimer, 1979). Lazaros & Folkman (1984) defined adaptation as "a continuous change in cognitive and behavioral efforts and taking control of the internal and external conditions that cause pressure" (P. 114). Other investigators regarded adaptation as "the ability to form satisfying relationships with the surrounding people and environment which affect physical and psychological stability"(Ghabari, & Khaled, 2010, P.22).

Psychological adaptation incorporates a continuous process of behavior change aiming at establishing a positive relationship with others in his/her environment to reduce tension and increase stability (Gebrel, 2014, P. 114). Additionally, it includes understanding behaviors, ideas, and emotions which identifies the living strategy in a proper way (Alen, 1990, P.5).

Illegitimate children & adolescents

Psychologists agreed upon the fact that childhood stage has a great importance in the formation of the child's life because all incidents and experiences of childhood leave its essential effects on



us in the adulthood stage; that is why the person's life is regarded as a chain of connected rings (Al-Essawi, 2000, P.237).

Childhood is the preparation for life during which the child acquires adaptive behaviors. Proper attitudes and values are shaped and right views are evaluated in this stage (Al-Gasmani, 1994, P.18). While adolescence, as reported by, Baters et al., (2011, P.35) is "the change that happens in all aspects of life either physical, intellectual, emotional". It is the stage coming between childhood and adulthood beginning from the sexual puberty that varies among teens. It is one of the most important developmental stages in life (Al-Zabalawy, 1998, P.19; Salhy, 2011, P. 54).

The family plays an essential and crucial role in protecting children from outside dangers, deviance or aberration. In contrast, children of unknown parentage may not find a natural protector; therefore, they are affected by the deprivation of love and feeling safe, basic needs (e.g. food, drink, clothes, and shelter), let alone how people look at them and how they are called names (e.g. illegitimate children, sons of whores, bastards, children of unknown parents). This leads children of unknown parents to be abnormal, ill-mannered, completely unconfident and worried about their lives and future.

To rear their children in a way that makes them normal people of integrated personalities, normal families undertake their social, educational, and religious responsibilities honestly and sincerely towards their children. On the other hand, dysfunctional families neglect upbringing their children, which leads the children to develop psychological as well as behavioral disorders. This neglect also results in adultery and illegitimate children who are killed, thrown on streets or brought up in care institutions or alternative families. In Islam, this issue is clear-cut: Islam forbids adultery, invites people to regard people of unknown parents as brothers in religion, and calls for upbringing children appropriately relying on good manners.

Marriage is a blessed religious practice and the secure way of illegal sexual relationship avoidance. Marriage is the legal method to have children and inhabit land and establish a family based on affection, mercy and tranquility. Allah has said "And of his signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find

tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought” (Surah Ar-Rum, 21). Conversely, in normal marriage, the child is welcomed with enormous pleasure and joyful embracement of his parents and surrounding family (Costa, 2001, P.76). Illegitimate children are faced by disgust and aversion. The illegitimate child is put on sidewalks, near wastebasket, or in front of a mosque or a church. Within harsh circumstances, the child begins the torture journey to a police station then to the orphanage or to the adopting family. Thus, the child is deprived form stability, safety and comfort without committing any mistake except for his parents sin (Al-Mahdy, 2010, P.42).


Abu-Muailaq (2006, P. 9-10) reported six reasons for the illegitimate children phenomenon as follows: general reasons such as poverty which Poverty and responsibility oblige mother to leave her baby in hospital for the sake of being reared away from deprivation, poverty and hunger. Theft & lose& misguidance, wars & catastrophes, private reasons, inability of mothers to get proof of marriage, Doubt between the spouses are also possible reasons for the existence of illegitimate children.

Illegitimate adolescents start searching for their identity and wondering: who am I? Where did I come from? And where am I going? When adolescents fail to decide who they are via their common culture, they feel guilty, worried, and insecure. They also start to challenge the mechanism of common culture via insurgency and revolting, along with some symptoms of psychological, social and cultural diseases. These problems appear when there is no connection between the past and present or when the past and future are uncertain (Weiten, 1994: 254).

Literature Review

In this section, the researcher reviews the main studies that dealt with children and adolescents of unknown parentage.

Ibrahim (2005) aimed at identifying the main common fears among illegitimate children living in care institutions using a sample comprised 40 children in the late childhood stage at care institutions in Ismailia: 17 males and 13 females. Results indicated statistically significant differences among males and females in connection with fear of the dark. Both the control and experimental



groups were found equally afraid of being alone before the experimental treatment. The Psychodrama program was effective in treating psychological and psychosomatic disorders and phobias.

Moustafa (2011) aimed at improving self-confidence in 9-12-year-old illegitimate children. Results showed statistically significant differences between the mean scores of the self-confidence scale only for the experimental group before and after applying the counselling program favouring the post-test.

Alhams (2011) aimed at identifying how far Palestinians accept coexistence with illegitimate children. The sample comprised 234 participants randomly and purposively selected from (urban, rural, Bedouin and camp refugees). Results show no statistically significant differences regarding how far illegitimate children are accepted by Bedouins, villagers or camp refugees. No statistically significant gender differences were detected.

Zaqout (2011) aimed at identifying the relationship between self-concept and self-loneliness and assertiveness for 58 illegitimate children. Results showed statistically significant differences between self-concept and self-loneliness and assertiveness among children with unknown parentage. No statistically significant differences have been found among children of unknown parentage due to age differences.

Hassoun (2012) aimed at comparing how self-concept is held by two groups of adolescents, one normal group living with their parents and another group deprived of care and living in care institutions. The sample included 112 male and female subjects of the two groups. Results show statistically significant differences between normal and deprived males and females in favor of normal adolescents in all the scale dimensions.

Iman Az-Zaalan (2015) aimed at identifying the relationship between future anxiety and personality traits of illegitimate children at care institutions and alternative families. The sample included 30 male and female children between 9 and 16 living in the Mercy Association for Children in the Gaza Strip. Results showed no gender differences among illegitimate children future anxiety, while there are differences in family anxiety in favor of females. Results also show no gender differences attributed to personality traits among illegitimate children. Likewise, there are


no differences in future anxiety or personality traits among illegitimate children due to the type of foster care in the Gaza Strip. Finally, no significant differences in personality traits among illegitimate children were attributed to educational levels.

In a study by Qouqy Dalila (2016) titled “The self-esteem level of adolescents of unknown parentage fostered by alternative families: A case study”, the researcher used the clinical case study method. The sample consisted of 40 illegitimate adolescents (20 males and 20 females), fostered by alternative families from their infancy. Results show that the fostered adolescents’ self-esteem level goes up in the beginning but gradually goes down.

Josef (2016) conducted a study entitled “The effect of separated parents on their children’s academic achievement and social relationships”. 59 children divided into a control group and experimental groups were recruited. Results indicated that children who lost their parents have very poor academic achievement, fragile social relationships and other problems such as anxiety and violence.

Aslan (2017) aimed at identifying the relationship between social support and autonomous behavior among illegitimate children a care Institution supervised by the orphan sponsorship association in Port Said in Egypt. Results revealed a statistically significant relationship between social support and the autonomous behaviour. Autonomous behaviour can be predicted via social support.

Ahmad & Mustafa (2017) investigated the personality traits and Animalia and of illegitimate teenagers in Khartoum State using a sample consisting of 151 aged between (13-18) participants who were purposefully selected. The Animalia is generally high among the illegitimate teenagers who live with alternative families. The general characteristics for both overall personality attributes and the two attributes of psychopathic tendency and introversion are high, while the tendency to traits of intimacy is generally characterized as low. The Animalia was positively correlated with both overall personality traits and the psychopathic tendency and introversion, and an negatively correlation with traits of intimacy. No significant differences attributed to gender were detected in



Animalia and personality attributes among illegitimate teenagers who live with alternative families.

Mustafa (2018) investigated the personality traits of illegitimate adolescents adopted by alternative families and the difference in those traits in light of certain demographic variables. 51 participants were randomly selected from SOS villages. Results indicated that positive personality traits such as agreeableness, tolerance, and sense of responsibility were higher than the mean score in the sample while negative personality traits such as psychopathic tendencies, and aggression were inferior to the mean score. Introversion and indifference were the prevailing traits. No significant gender or age differences in personality traits were found while there were significant differences attributed to the type of the alternative family concerning the positive personality traits.

Comment on the previous studies & Contribution of the present study

It could be concluded from the previous studies that most studies investigated various variables among illegitimate children and adolescence such as common fears, self-confidence, coexistence, loneliness and assertiveness, self-concept, future anxiety, self-esteem, academic achievement, social support and autonomous behavior. There is a shortage of studies that deal with personality traits and psychological adaptation experienced by illegitimate children and adolescents. Accordingly, the present study is supposed to assess the personality traits and psychological adaptation among those children and teenagers.

Hypotheses of the study

Based on literature related to the current study, the researcher set the following hypotheses:

H1: There is a statistically significant correlation between personality traits and psychological adaptation of the illegitimate children

H2: There is a statistically significant correlation between personality traits and psychological adaptation of the illegitimate teenagers

H3: There are statistically significant differences between illegitimate children and illegitimate teenagers in psychological adaptation and personality traits

H4: Can personality traits predict psychological adaptation of illegitimate children and adolescents

Method

Study Methodology

The researcher followed the descriptive approach due to its appropriateness for the topic and objectives of the study. It deals with existing events, phenomena and practices that exist and are available for study and measurement without the intervention of the researcher.

Study Population

The population of the study consisted of illegitimate children and adolescents in Riyadh region. They were (98) children and adolescents who are sponsored by the Ministry of Labor and Social Development in the city of Riyadh.

Study Sample

The sample of the study consisted of (25) children and adolescents, distributed as follows: (14) illegitimate children, and (11) illegitimate teenagers, ranged between 6-19 years in care institution in Riyadh city, the study utilized this sample due to the difficulty of reaching a larger one owing to its scarcity. They were purposefully selected. Their mean age was 12.84 and SD was 3.84. The distribution of sample was semi-normal. Tables (1, 2) show the descriptive statistics of the participants.

Table 1 descriptive statistics of illegitimate children (N=14)

Skewness	SD	Median	M	scale	
0.26	4.18	106.00	106.36	Psychological adaptation	
-0.54	1.99	16.50	16.14	Antagonism & Aggression	Personality rating scale
-0.21	1.02	14.50	14.43	Dependency	
-0.31	1.39	15.50	15.36	Emotional non-reciprocation	
-0.33	1.93	13.00	12.79	Emotional instability	
-0.20	1.47	13.10	13.00	Negative view of life	
0.43	4.94	71.00	71.71	Total score	

Table (1) shows that the skewness values of the psychological adaptation scale and personality rating scale range between - 0.54 and -0.43 i.e., they do not exceed the standard +3 and -3. This

reflects that the scores of the children sample follow the normal distribution curve.

Table 2 descriptive statistics of illegitimate adolescents (N=14)

Skewness	SD	Median	M	scale	
0.91	3.59	72.00	73.09	Psychological adaptation	
-0.53	2.06	23.00	22.64	Antagonism& Aggression	Personality rating scale
-0.20	1.38	12.00	11.91	Dependency	
0.30	1.83	15.00	15.18	Emotional non-reciprocation	
0.90	0.90	18.00	18.27	Emotional instability	
0.95	1.44	21.00	21.45	Negative view of life	
1.25	5.87	87.00	89.45	Total score	

Table (1) shows that the skewness values of the psychological adaptation scale and personality rating scale range between - 0.53 and 1.25 i.e., they do not exceed the standard +3 and -3. This reflects that the scores of the adolescents sample follow the normal distribution curve.

Measures

Personality rating scale

The researcher selected five dimensions from the personality rating scale developed by Mamdouh Salama. It is characterized by the easiness of items and their appropriateness for the illegitimate children and teenagers whose age falls between nine and sixteen. The scale consists of 42 items and aims at identifying the level of personality rating of illegitimate children. It consisted in its preliminary form of 30 items distributed on five secondary dimensions, 3 items were omitted and one item was added according to the jury's suggestion. So the final form consisted of 28 items.

The scale was constructed on the basis of four points, that is, (always; sometimes; rarely; never).The total score of the scale ranges from 1 mark to 104 marks. Statements are given scores according the scale points as follows: always takes (4); sometimes takes (3); rarely takes (2); never takes (1). The high score indicates the negative side in the behavior to measure. Some items of the scale were stated in revers with the other items, so that the high score points out to the negative side in the behavior to measure.

The sub dimensions of the scale

Hostility: Hostility is an internal feeling of anger and

resentment, directed towards oneself or others, attitudes, or things. It is expressed aggressively by the individual

Aggression: Any behavior or act directed towards others to cause harm to them. It is sometimes directed to the self. The number of items of this dimension after Jury's review is (6), and their numbers on the scale are from 1 to 6.

Dependence: The dependence of a person on others; to find sympathy, encouragement, tranquility, guidance and decision. The number of items of this dimension after Jury's review is (4), and their numbers on the scale are from 7 to 10


Emotional response: It means the ability of the child to express his/her feelings and emotions towards others freely and spontaneously, especially his positive feelings, such as: "Love and warmth, attention, and compassion" whereas, the lack of emotional response, refers to the difficulty of affection and love. The number of items of this dimension after Jury's review is (5), and their numbers on the scale are from 11 to 15.

Emotional stability: It means the extent of stability of the child's mood, and the ability to face problems and sources of tension and failure in life, with the least amount of frustration and discomfort. While the emotional instability of the child, it is what upsets the child's mood, and it is unpredictable or unidentifiable, such as the shift from feelings of joy to anger. The number of items of this dimension after Jury's review is (5), and their numbers on the scale are from (16 to 20).

View of life: It is the child's view of the world around him, either as a safe, stable and pleasant place, or as a place of dangers and difficulties, threatened and insecure. The number of items of this dimension after Jury's review is (6), and their numbers on the scale are from (21 to 26).

Validity

The researcher submitted the scale in its preliminary version of the scale was given to a panel of jury (10 experts) in the field of psychology to take their views in the appropriateness of the scale items. The percentage of their agreement ranged between 80% and 100%. Internal consistency of the scale items was computed and the values of the correlation co-efficient ranged between 0.65 to 0.92, and P-value ≤ 0.01 . Correlation between the score of each dimension and the total score of the scale was computed and the values ranged between 0.79 and 0.88. To ensure the validity of the



scale, comparison of extremes method was used using a sample consisting of 10 participants and Mann-whitney non-parametric test of difference between low & high quarters was computed. Z scores were significant at 0.05 level as follows: 1.99 for antagonism & aggression, 2.02 for dependency, 1.99 for emotional non-reciprocation, 1.99 for emotional imbalance, 1.99 for negative view of life, and 1.99 for the total score of the scale. Taken together, those data revealed that the scale has the possibility to discriminate among participants.

Reliability

Test-re-test reliability method was adopted. The scale was re-administered after fifteen days of the first administration then correlation between the two tests was computed and reported as follows: 0.86 for antagonism & aggression, 0.83 for dependency, 0.87 for emotional non-reciprocation, 0.85 for emotional imbalance, and 0.88 for negative view of life and 0.89 for the total score of the scale. Split half reliability was also computed and its value reached 0.88. Cronback Alpha for antagonism & aggression was 0.91, 0.89 for dependency, 0.90 for emotional non-reciprocation, 0.91 for emotional imbalance, 0.92 for negative view of life and 0.93 for the total score of the scale.

Psychological adaptation scale

This scale was prepared by the present researcher. It aims to identify the level of psychological adaptation in illegitimate children and adolescents. The scale, in its final version, consists of (30) items. Each item has three response alternatives: never, sometimes, always, and the child or adolescent is expected to check (√) in front of the response that most fits his feelings. The scores of this scale range from one to ninety marks. The response to the scale is at three levels (never (1), sometimes (2), and always (3)). The researcher reviewed certain Arabic and English scales of psychological adaptation before drafting the pool of items of the present scale such as

Ryder, Alden & Paulhus, 2000; Grace, 2010; Ghabari & Khaled, 2010; Mahmood, & Iqbal, 2015). Those studies were useful in phrasing different items and selecting the likert scale of responses that was suitable for the present study scale.

Validity

The first draft of the scale was given to a panel of jury specialized in Psychology to take their views in the statement of the items. The percentage of their agreement ranged between 80% and 100%. Internal consistency was ensured through computing the

correlation between each item and the total score of the scale was computed. Values of the correlation ranged between 0.65 and 0.93 indicating that the scale has an adequate internal consistency. To ensure the validity of the scale, comparison of extremes method was used using a sample consisting of 10 participants and Mann-whitney non-parametric test of difference between low & high quarters was computed. Z score was 0.99, and p-value ≤ 0.05 indicating that the scale has discriminant validity.

Reliability

Test-re-test reliability method was adopted. The scale was re-administered on 10 participants after fifteen days of the first measurement and the correlation co-efficient value reached 0.89, P value ≤ 0.01 indicating that the scale has an adequate reliability. Split halves reliability was computed after the scale was divided into two equivalent parts. Spearman Brown formula was also utilized to compute reliability. The values of the reliability was 0.92. Cranach Alpha value was 0.87.

Results

In the following pages, results of the hypothesis will be exposed.

Results of Hypotheses 1:

H1: There is a statistically significant correlation between personality traits and psychological adaptation of the illegitimate children

To examine hypotheses 1, Pearson correlation co-efficient was used. Hypotheses 1 stated that there would be statistical correlation relationship between psychological adaptation and personality traits of illegitimate children.

Table (3) Correlation between personality traits and psychological adaptation of illegitimate children n=14

Psychological adaptation		Personality Rating scale
Sig.	R	
0.05	-0.56*	Antagonism & Aggression
0.01	-0.71**	Dependency
insignificant	0.37	Emotional non- reciprocation
insignificant	0.20	Emotional imbalance
insignificant	-0.53	Negative view of life
0.01	-0.71**	Total score

Tabulated $R=0.532$ at 0.05 level and 0.661 at 0.01 level

Table 3 shows that statistically significant correlation was found between personality traits and psychological adaptation

dimensions (Antagonism & Aggression and Dependency) while the correlation with other dimensions (Emotional non- reciprocation, Emotional imbalance & Negative view of life) was insignificant.

In this context, illegitimate children are more aggressive and negative as reported by studies conducted by Janatte, (2017) and Peter (2015)

Results of Hypotheses 2:

Hypotheses 2: There is a correlation relationship between personality traits and psychological adjustment of illegitimate adolescents. Pearson correlation co-efficient was used.

Table (4) Correlation between personality traits and psychological adaptation of illegitimate adolescents n=11

Psychological adaptation		Personality Rating sub-scales	
Sig.	R		
0.01	-0.87**	Antagonism & Aggression	
0.05	-0.73*	Dependency	
insignificant	-0.35	Emotional non- reciprocation	
0.05	-0.66*	Emotional imbalance	
0.01	-0.80**	Negative view of life	
0.01	-0.88**	Total score	

Tabulated R=0.602 at 0.05 level and 0.735 at 0.01 level

Table 4 shows that there a significant negative correlation relationship between personality traits and psychological adjustment (Antagonism & Aggression, Dependency, Emotional imbalance, and Negative view of life) while insignificant correlation was found between Emotional non- reciprocation and personality traits scale

This result can be explained by the importance of the two variables and its mutual effects on each other. The result is in line with the findings reported by (Mabrouk, 2011) which revealed that illegitimate children avoid interaction with others and feels meaningless ness in life.

Results of Hypotheses 3:

To examine hypotheses 3: There are statistically significant differences between illegitimate children and adolescents in personality traits and psychological adjustment. T-test for independent samples was computed

Table (5) t-test results of difference between illegitimate children and adolescents

Sig.	t	Adolescents		Children		Scales	Personal ity Rating
		SD	M	SD	M		
0.01	20.98**	3.59	73.09	4.18	106.36	Psychological adaptation	
0.01	7.96**	2.06	22.64	1.99	16.14	Antagonism & Aggression	
0.01	5.27**	1.38	11.91	1.02	14.43	Dependency	
insignificant	0.27	1.83	15.18	1.39	15.36	Emotional non-reciprocation	
0.01	8.69**	0.90	18.27	1.93	12.79	Emotional imbalance	
0.01	14.42**	1.44	21.45	1.47	13.00	Negative view of life	
0.01	8.21**	5.87	89.45	4.94	71.71	Total score	

Tabulated t. value = 2.07 at 0.05 level and 2.81 at 0.01 level

Table (5) shows that:

- There are statistically significant differences between illegitimate children and adolescents in psychological adaptation.
- There are statistically significant differences between illegitimate children and adolescents in the dimensions of hostility and aggression, emotional instability, negative view of life) in favor of illegitimate adolescents.
- There are statistically significant differences between illegitimate children and adolescents in the dimension of dependence in favor of illegitimate children.
- There are statistically significant differences between illegitimate children and adolescents in the dimension of (non-emotional response) of the personality traits scale.

Results of Hypotheses 4:

H4: Can personality traits predict psychological adaptation of illegitimate children and adolescents

The main assumptions of the regression analysis are: a correlation relationship between the independent and dependent variable, a semi-normal distribution of the scores of the two variables, the random sampling of the participants (see tables1, 2). In the present study, the correlations between the variables were higher than 0.3 so the researcher was motivated to compute regression analysis. Results of the regression analysis are reported in the following tables.

Table (6) Regression analysis of personality traits and psychological adaptation for illegitimate children & adolescents (n=14)

For children								
Step	Sub-scale	R	R ²	constant	B	Beta	F	t
1	Dependency	0.71	0.50	148.42	-2.92	-0.71	12.10**	3.48**
For adolescents								
1	Antagonism & Aggression	0.87	0.76	107.48	-1.52	-0.87	28.78**	5.36**
2	Antagonism & Aggression Negative view of life	0.93	0.87	119.35	-1.06 -1.04	-0.61 -0.42	25.69**	3.63** 2.48*

*significant at 0.05 level

** significant at 0.01 level

Table 6 shows that dependency occupied the first rank in its contribution to the psychological adaptation of the illegitimate children. R=0.71, R² = 0.50. The contribution ratio equals 50%. F= 12.10, P>0.01. This result indicates that significant correlation was found between dependency and psychological adaptation. Thus, it was possible to predict psychological adaptation through dependency.

Regression formula can be phrased as follows:

Psychological adaptation = 148.42 + (-2.92) × scores of dependency

Table 6 shows also that Antagonism & Aggression occupied the first rank in its contribution to the psychological adaptation of the illegitimate adolescents. R=0.87, R² = 0.76. The contribution ratio equals 76%. F= 27.78, P>0.01. This result indicates that significant correlation was found between Antagonism & Aggression and psychological adaptation. Thus, it was possible to predict psychological adaptation through Antagonism & Aggression.

Regression formula can be phrased as follows:

Psychological adaptation = 107.48 + (-1.52) × scores of Antagonism & Aggression

Negative view of life occupied the second rank in its contribution to the psychological adaptation of the illegitimate adolescents. R=0.93, R² = 0.87. The contribution ratio equals 87%.

F= 25.69, P>0.01. This result indicates that significant correlation was found between Antagonism & Aggression, negative view of life and psychological adaptation. Thus, it was possible to predict psychological adaptation through Antagonism & Aggression and negative view of life.


Regression formula can be phrased as follows:

Psychological adaptation = 119.35 + (-1.06) × scores of antagonism & aggression + (-1.04) × scores of negative view of life.

Discussion & Conclusion

The overall view of the results shows that positive and significant correlation relationship was found between personality traits and psychological adjustment of the illegitimate adolescents. It was found that no statistically significant differences between illegitimate children and adolescents in psychological adaptation. This result of the study is consistent with Zaqout (2011) who agreed that there are no differences among illegitimate children due to the variable of age. This is also consistent with Kenneth and others (Kenneth, 2016) that illegitimate children have the ability to absorb traumatic events due to their young age. They are more receptive because of the lack of religion. Whereas, adolescents show hostility and aggression towards their communities and others, and their view of life is negative. They are in a dangerous age that requires comparison, imitation and good model which they are looking for and cannot find.

According to Mabrouk (2011, 27-54) adolescence begins from 13 to 21 years. adolescent is exposed to a series of psychological conflicts, including: the struggle between independence, the need for support and reliance on others, especially parents and family, and struggle between the pursuit of responsibility and the need for security and protection, as well as the struggle between achieving motivation and satisfaction of needs, demands of external reality and the need for social harmony. There is a conflict between sexual and religious pressures and values, in addition to the struggle between the pursuit of personal freedom and self-realization as well as social pressures represented in values and standards. Therefore, attention should be directed to families or caregivers of adolescents help them to be aware of the impact of these changes during



adolescence, which may lead to many social and psychological problems, so all kinds of social and psychological care should be provided by the community to adolescents.

Hence, the researcher emphasizes that the caregivers of illegitimate individuals must provide all the attention and care for them in the late childhood and adolescence. Children need help and feeling that they are capable, competent and reliable persons. They need also someone who makes him/ her feel confident. In addition, caregivers should follow the method of education directed to him/her, not which represents a pressure on them; so that their personality grows, and they can explore the world around them, and participate in different situations of life.

These findings of the regression analysis indicated that antagonism & aggression and negative view of life were the most significant predictors of psychological adjustment. This result is inconsistent with the findings reported by Ryder, et al. (2000) who found that neuroticism and extraversion were the most significant predictors of psychological adjustment. Other studies claimed that the personality dimension of conscientiousness was also related to positive psychological adjustment.

A possible interpretation of this finding is that positive personality traits helps and enables children and adolescents to adapt to difficult circumstances and feel psychological relief. In line with this finding, Ahadi & Puente-Díaz (2011) found that basic dimensions of personality such as extraversion and neuroticism were strongly related to psychological adjustment. They also suggested that "personality variables of extraversion and neuroticism were highly related to positive and negative psychological adjustment, respectively. Extraversion was related to participants' reported positive affect and life satisfaction, while neuroticism was related to negative affect and distress from behavioral symptoms. Individual differences in conscientiousness were also related to psychological adjustment, especially participants' ratings of positive affect" (P.852).

Conclusion

The main goal of the present study was to detect the significance of the correlation relationship between personality traits and psychological adjustment. 25 illegitimate children and

adolescents were recruited to be participants in the process of data collection. Results of the study revealed that a positive significant correlation relationship was found between personality traits and psychological adjustment of the illegitimate children. Besides, a positive and significant correlation relationship was found between personality traits and psychological adjustment of the illegitimate adolescents. It was also possible to detect a significant difference between illegitimate children and adolescents in personality traits and psychological adjustment. Dependency, Antagonism & aggression and negative view of life were the best predictors of psychological adjustment.

Limitations & Further Research

It is worth noting that the present study results should not be generalized at a large level because there are certain limitations that confine those given results. The first delimitation is the small sample size. The reason for recruitment of that small sample size was the scarcity of the participants owing to the little size of the main population itself in the investigated area. A future study should examine a larger number of illegitimate children and adolescents from different areas in Saudi Arabia and should not be limited to Riyadh area. The second limitation of the study was self-report questionnaire of psychological adaptation and personality traits scale. Those questionnaires might give participants the chance to deform their responses. Using mixed method of data collection such as structured interviews, situational scales and caregivers rating scales would be of great use in further research project. A possible trend of future research may be revolving around a cross-cultural investigation of the factors affecting the psychological welfare and quality of life of the illegitimate adolescents in different cultures.

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