

## **Surveying the Relationship between the Parents' Characteristics and Communicational Skills and Self-Image of Motor-Physical Handicapped, Nehbandan, Iran**

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**ABSTRACT**— Taking into account that family is a systematic organization and given that the couple's relationship is one of the sub-systems of family, the present study is an attempt to survey the relationship of the parents' characteristics with communicational skills and self-image of motor-physical handicaps. The study was carried out as a descriptive correlative work and study population was comprised of all physical-motor handicaps living in Nehbandan city and their parents. Since the study population was small, census sampling was carried out. So that all members of the population were selected as participants. For data gathering, neo-personality questionnaire (NEO-AC), Queen Dom's communicational questionnaire, and Pier and Harris's self-image questionnaire (1961) were used. The results showed that the emotional relationship of the parents with their children is a critical factor in the socialization process of children and development of their self-image.

### **Introduction**

Characteristics of family members and the parents in particular are of the intervening factors in inter-personal relationship of children. Personality is a general structure, which is formed by a set of personal specifications and refers to three factors of thoughts, emotions, and external visible behaviors that interact with the elements of the environment. The parents and their behaviors create situations that induces specific behaviors in children. They provide their children with models and promote specific types of behaviors. (Parvin, 1989) Characteristics of the parents and upbringing methods are the early factors in formation of personality in adolescence and adulthood. The role of the parents in the children's life is not limited to heritage as they play key role in the way the child learns about social life and culture of the society (Whitty, 2008). Apparently, one of the variables that is affected by characteristics of the parents is communicational skills of children. The skills are the ability to create inter-personal relationship with others in an acceptable way from the eyes of the society, so that the individual would benefits from such relationship. (Taylor, 1968) Another variable in this regard is self-image; which is a set of traits, abilities, attitudes, and values that one finds them representative of their personality. (Kessler et al, 1989) Taking into account what mentioned above and because few studies have been carried out on psychological issues of the handicaps, the present study is an attempt to answer "if characteristics of the parents have relationship with communication skills and self-image of motor-physical handicapped."

### **Methodology**

A descriptive correlative study was carried out on a study population comprised of all motor-physical handicapped living in Nehbandan-Iran and their parents. Because the study population was small, census sampling was carried out; so that all the members of the population were selected as the participants.

### **Tools**

Personality questionnaire (NEO-AC) is a five factors questionnaire with 44 statements. The elements under study are acceptance, responsiveness (C), extroversion (E), adaptability (A) and neurotics (N). The questionnaire is comprised of 60 questions with five alternatives designed based on a five-point scale (completely disagree=1, disagree=2, no comment=3, agree=4, completely agree=5). Taking into account the negative statements, score of a question is in the interval (0-4). Each factor is covered by 12 questions and for 50 factors, 60 questions comprise the questionnaire. (Feeney et al, 2012) Communicational skills questionnaire: the questionnaire measures communicational skills in the adult with 34 statements. The respondents are needed to read each statement and determine its conformity with their condition based on Likert's five-point scale (1= never, ..., 5= always). Self-image questionnaire: the questionnaire is comprised of 80 Yes/No questions and designed as pencil-paper verbal questionnaire. It is featured with six sub-scales of behavior, intellectual status, education, physical appearance and attitude, anxiety, reputation, happiness, and satisfaction. The statements are scored in positive or negative directors to reflect the aspect of assessment. It is assumed that higher scores means better self-image, which indicates higher self-esteem or self-respect.

**Problem statement**

Are communicational skills and self-image of motor-physical handicapped related with characteristics of the parents?

**Hypotheses**

- There is a relationship between the parents' characteristics and communicational skills of motor-physical handicaps.
- There is a relationship between the parents' characteristics and self-image of motor-physical handicaps.

**Table 1-** Distribution frequency of gender of the participants

Compression rate	%	N	Gender
57.60	57.6	90	M
100%	42.4	66	F
....	100%	156	Total

As listed in the table above, out of 156 participants, 90 (57%) were men and 66 (43%) were women.

**Table 2-** Frequency distribution of marital status of motor handicaps

Compression rate	%	N	Marital status
23.07	23.07	36	Unmarried
100%	76.90	120	Married
....	100%	156	Total

As listed in the table above, out of 156 participants, 36 (23%) were unmarried and 120 (77%) were married.

**Table 3-** Frequency distribution of age of motor handicaps

Compression rate	%	N	Age
41	41.01	64	30<
27	27	42	30-35
12.8	12.8	20	36-40
100	15.38	30	40>
....	100%	156	Total

As listed in the table above, out of 156 participants, 64 (41.01%) were below 30 years old, 42 (27%) were between 30 and 35, 20 (12.8%) were between 36 and 40, and 30 were above 40 (15.38%).

**Table 4-** Pearson correlation to determine the relationship between characteristics and communication skills and self-image

Self-image		Communicational skills		Variable
P	R	P	R	
0.209	-0.10	0.000	-0.40**	Neurotics
0.000	0.45**	0.000	0.32**	Extroversion
0.000	0.33**	0.02	0.18*	Acceptance
0.19	0.10	0.000	0.34**	Agreeability
0.000	0.40**	0.003	0.23**	Responsiveness

**Table 5-** Step-by-step regression analysis of communication skills through characteristics

R square Adjusted	r <sup>2</sup>	r	Sig.	F	MS	DF	SS	Source of variance	Model
0.16	0.16	0.40	0.000	30.22	1396.6	1	1396.9	Regression	1
					46.21	154	7116.72	Remainder	
0.28	0.29	0.54	0.000	31.02	1228.33	2	2456.65	Regression	2
					39.56	153	6056.95	Remainder	
0.30	0.32	0.56	0.000	23.36	895.55	3	2686.65	Regression	3
					38.33	152	5826.96	Remainder	

Dependent variable: communication skills

Predictor variables: neurotics, extroversion, responsiveness

The three predictor variables explain 32% of variance of communicational skills. Given the value of F and that  $P < 0.01$ , one may conclude that communicational skills have linear relationship with neurotics, extroversion, and responsiveness.

**Table 6-** Regression coefficients of predictor variables in regression analysis of communicational skills

P	t	Beta	SE	B	Model
0.000	9.71		8.02	77.95	Constant
0.000	-4.63	-0.33	0.11	-0.54	Neurotics
0.000	4.70	0.32	0.08	0.41	Extroversion
0.000	2.45	0.18	0.13	0.31	Responsiveness

Dependent variable: communication skills

Predictor variables: neurotics, extroversion, responsiveness

Given the value of t and that  $p < 0.01$ , the hypothesis that separation coefficient of neurotic, extroversion, and responsiveness is equal with zero is rejected. Therefore, there is a good probability of a linear relationship between these three variables and communicational skills.

**Table 7-** Step-by-step regression analysis of self-image skills through characteristics

R square Adjusted	$r^2$	r	Sig.	F	MS	dF	SS	Source of variance	Model
0.26	0.27	0.52	0.000	35.90	1483.08	1	1483.08	Regression	1
					41.31	98	4048.47	Remainder	

Dependent variable: self-image

Predictor variables: adaptability, acceptance

Given the value of F and that  $P < 0.01$ , one may conclude that self-image has linear relationship with adaptability and acceptance

**Table 8-** Regression coefficients of predictor variables in regression analysis of self-image

P	t	Beta	SE	B	Model
0.001	3.50		4.44	15.47	Constant
0.000	3.80	0.33	0.12	0.46	Adaptability
0.001	2.60	0.22	0.12	0.30	Acceptance

Dependent variable: self-image

Predictor variables: adaptability, acceptance

Given the value of t and that  $p < 0.01$ , the hypothesis that separation coefficient of adaptability and acceptance is equal with zero is rejected. Therefore, there is a good probability of a linear relationship between these two variables and self-image.

### Discussion and conclusion

The findings showed that the emotional relationship between the parents and their children has a profound effect on socialization process of the children and their self-image. Children of the parents who have affectional relationship tend to demonstrate good sympathy and positive interactions. These children show positive behaviors and establish relationship with respect. It can be concluded that although the parents are not the only ones that participate in socialization of the children, they surely play the main role in this regard and the emotional aspect of the relationship between the parents and the children is a key factor. Although, it is the smallest social unit, family is the foundation of every society. Healthy, active, and successful individuals come from healthy families and unsuccessful and unhealthy individuals come from unhealthy families. Therefore, family health, personality balance of the parents, and their familiarity with the principles that create a healthy environment are of vital importance.

### References

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