



**Research Paper: The Relationship of Parent-child Interaction, Sense of Security, Entitlement Schema and Adjustment with Mediating Role of Resilience**



**Elaheh Javanmard Kamel<sup>\*1</sup>, Milad SabzehAra Langaroudi<sup>2</sup>, Masoumeh Maleki Pirbazari<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> M. A. in General Psychology, Rahman Institute of Higher Education, Ramsar, Iran

<sup>2</sup> Assistant Professor, Psychology Department, Rahman Institute of Higher Education, Ramsar, Iran

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**Abstract**

**Objective:** One of the signs of people's mental health is the ability to adapt to different life conditions. This study aims to explore how parent-child interaction, sense of security, entitlement schema and adjustment are related, and how resilience mediates these relationships.

**Methods:** The participants are 250 female high school students from Rudsar city, who were selected by convenience sampling from 5 schools in the academic year 2023-2022. The data were collected online using the following instruments: the Parent-Child Relationship Assessment Questionnaire (PCRS), the Sense of Security in Family System Questionnaire (SIFS), the Young Schema Questionnaire (YSQ), the California Social Adjustment Questionnaire (CSAQ) and the Resilience Scale (SQRS). The data analysis was performed using Pearson correlation coefficient test and structural equation modeling with LISREL-8.8 and SPSS-22 software.

**Results:** The results showed that the data has a good fit with the proposed research model. The results showed that parent-child interaction, sense of security and entitlement schema have a direct and significant impact on the adjustment of female students. Moreover, there was an indirect and significant impact of parent-child interaction, sense of security and entitlement schema on the adjustment of students through the mediating role of resilience ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** The results suggest that the type of parent-child interaction, sense of security and the schemas created can influence the individual's adjustment with the environment, and resilience plays a mediating role in this process. Therefore, paying attention to these variables is recommended to parents, counselors, psychologist and experts in the field of education.

**\* Corresponding author:**

Elaheh Javanmard Kamel

**Address:** Rahman Institute of Higher Education, Ramsar, Iran

**Tel:** +98 (936) 933 9929

**E-mail:** [elahe.javanmard.1372@gmail.com](mailto:elahe.javanmard.1372@gmail.com)



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## 1. Introduction

Human beings always try to adjust to their surroundings, because they show signs of mental health when they adapt and conform to different conditions. However, this does not mean that they always follow their unconscious impulses, as they change and evolve over time and in different life situations. Sometimes, stressful and challenging situations disrupt their adaptation and lead to incompatible behaviors. Adaptation is a set of behaviors and reactions that individuals display in new situations in response to environmental stimuli (Amani et al., 2010). Psychologists regard adaptation, as a set of normal or healthy personality traits and characteristics that individuals exhibit in relation to the environment, in order to achieve compatibility with their surrounding world and pursue their place in society with peace and tranquility. In other words, adaptation reflects how the individual develops with others in the social environment, and how satisfied the individual is with his/her roles and performance in these roles, which the individual's personality, cultural environment and family significantly influence. The family's emotional bond with the adolescent helps him/her to have a positive self-perception and self-concept. One of the common mistakes of parents is to think that children only need attention and love in childhood and neglect adolescence. However, human beings need the love of those around them, especially the family, at all stages of their lives. This love from parents creates a sense of security and confidence in the individual. Many

psychological disorders and problems have lack of a sense of security as their source. One of the consequences of lack of a sense of security is that the child's and adolescent's self-confidence declines. In an insecure environment, the child always feels humiliated and cannot cope with his/her problems and issues. Respect for the child is one of the main pillars of the child's mental health, which makes him/her a human being with a normal and independent personality, and gives him/her vitality and hope. A secure person needs balanced love, appropriate guidance, encouragement and order for his/her growth and health in childhood (Navabakhsh & Fathi, 2011).

Many schemas form during childhood and early years of life, and they appear throughout adulthood. These schemas can have a positive or negative nature. They can also form in the early years of life or even in adolescence, but the important point is the significant role of parents, family and their interactions in shaping these schemas. One of the most incompatible features of schemas is that they ignore all inconsistent and contradictory information. Incompatible schemas cause our thoughts and behaviors, which result from these schemas, to be incompatible as well. Psychological disorders often have incompatible behaviors as features, and incompatible schemas can increase the risk of these disorders. Most schemas have formed in our minds by parents in the beginning of life. One of the incompatible schemas is entitlement schema. We can say that a person who has entitlement schema sees himself/herself superior and higher than others, thinks he/she is more

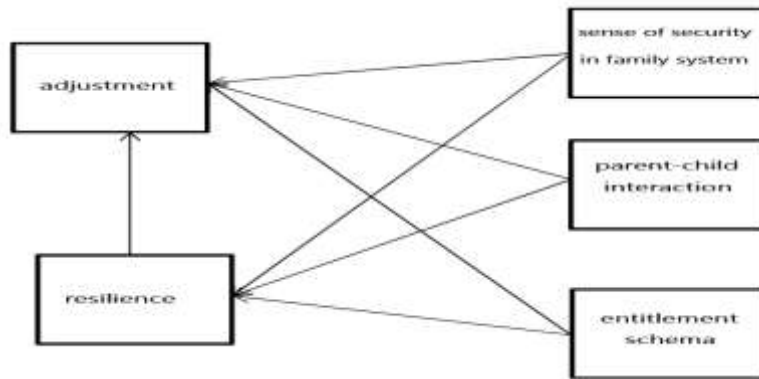
important and valuable than everyone else. He/she does not see any reason to pay attention or show sympathy to others. He/she sees himself/herself at the center of the world and does not follow the rules because he/she believes that the rules are for the common people. He/she does not consider the needs of others and does not hesitate to do anything to achieve his/her goals, regardless of the possible costs for others (Stewart, 2017/2019).

Considering the features of this schema, we also want to look at resilience and examine its relationship with adaptation. Resilience is the ability to maintain functioning in the face of stressful or disturbing events or situations that challenge

the emotional balance of life (Bonano & Coifman, 2010). Resilience is the characteristics and abilities that enable a person to adapt and cope with difficult situations or new changes. Resilience is a skill that people can learn and improve, even though some factors related to it are biological and genetic. Therefore, resilience plays a vital role in all aspects of adaptation (Kordmirza-Nikozadeh, 2013).

According to the stated materials, the purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between parent-child interaction, sense of security, entitlement schema and adaptation with the mediating role of resilience. The conceptual model of the research is presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Conceptual model of the relationship between parent-child interaction, sense of security, and entitlement schema with social adaptation, and the mediating role of resilience.



**2. Method**

The aim of this research was to apply descriptive and correlational methods to study the relationship between emotional intelligence, self-efficacy and academic achievement among female high school students in Rudsar city, Iran. The research population consisted of 250 female students

who were selected by convenience sampling from five different schools in the academic year 2021-2022. The data collection instruments were the following questionnaires:

**Parent-Child Relationship Survey (PCRS):** This questionnaire was developed by Fine et al. (1983). It is a 24-item questionnaire that

measures the quality of communication between parents and children. It has two versions: one for the child-mother relationship and one for the child-father relationship. The only difference between the versions is the substitution of the words “mother” and “father”. The questionnaire uses a 7-point Likert scale to rate each item. Items 9, 13 and 14 are reverse scored. The scores of the items are summed and divided by the number of items in each factor to obtain the mean score of each subscale. The total score is the sum of the mean scores of the subscales. The total score ranges from 24 to 168. A score between 24 and 48 indicates a weak parent-child relationship, a score between 48 and 96 indicates a moderate parent-child relationship, and a score above 96 indicates a strong parent-child relationship. The PCRS has high internal consistency, with Cronbach’s alpha coefficients ranging from 0.89 to 0.96 for the father version and from 0.61 to 0.96 for the mother version. These coefficients were obtained from a sample of 241 students. In another study by Parhizgar et al. (2002), the reliability coefficients were 0.93 for the father version and 0.92 for the mother version, indicating good internal consistency (Araghi, 2008).

**The Security in the Family System Questionnaire (SIFS):** Forman and Davies (2004) to measure the level of emotional intelligence among students developed this questionnaire. It has 22 items that are rated on a 4-point Likert scale. The mean score of this questionnaire is 55. The questionnaire was translated into Persian for the purpose of this research and the original authors

confirmed its validity. The questionnaire also showed a high reliability of 0.87 Cronbach’s alpha and a satisfactory internal consistency.

**The Young Schema Questionnaire (YSQ):** Young (1994) to assess and measure early maladaptive schemas created this scale. The original and complete version of this questionnaire has 232 questions that assess 18 criteria. These 18 maladaptive or ineffective schemas are: Emotional Deprivation, Abandonment/Instability, Mistrust/Abuse, Defectiveness/Shame, Social Isolation/Alienation, Dependence/Incompetence, Failure, Vulnerability to Harm and Illness, Enmeshment/Undeveloped Self, Subjugation, Self-Sacrifice, Emotional Inhibition, Unrelenting Standards/Hypocriticalness, Entitlement/Grandiosity, Insufficient Self-Control/Self-Discipline, Punitiveness, Negativity/Pessimism, and Approval-Seeking/Recognition-Seeking. This questionnaire has good validity and reliability. Ghiasi et al. (2011) conducted a study to investigate the factor structure of the Young Schema Questionnaire. They reported that the extracted variance was 31.24% and the Cronbach’s alpha was 0.37. They only used the items that measured the entitlement schema in their study.

**The California Social Adaptation Questionnaire (CSAQ):** This questionnaire was developed by Clarke et al. (1953). It measures four aspects of social adjustment: social skills, school relationships, family relationships, and social relationships. It has 40 items that are rated on a Likert scale. The scores range from 0 to 40, with higher scores

indicating better social adjustment and lower scores indicating worse social adjustment. The reliability of this questionnaire was estimated to be above 0.7 using Cronbach’s alpha coefficient. Charaki-Zadeh (2017) evaluated the content, face, and criterion validity of this questionnaire and found them to be satisfactory.

**Standard Questionnaire of Resilience Scale:** The questionnaire was designed by Connor and Davidson (2003) and measures resilience using 10 statements that are rated on a 5-point Likert scale from one (never) to five (almost always). The scores range from 10 to 17 for

low resilience, from 17 to 34 for average resilience, and above 34 for high resilience. Keyhani et al. (2014) verified the validity of the questionnaire by experts and calculated its reliability using Cronbach’s alpha method 0.70.

**3. Results**

The descriptive findings showed that the students who participated in the study were distributed as follows: 43.6% in grade 11<sup>th</sup>, 31.6% in grade 12<sup>th</sup>, and 24.8% in grade 10<sup>th</sup>. Table 1 presents the descriptive statistics of the research variables.

Table 1  
Descriptive analysis of research variables

Variables	Mean	Standard Deviation
Parent-child interaction	122.01	0.35
Sense of security	61.26	0.45
Entitlement schema	76.32	0.22
Adjustment	38.45	0.20
Resilience	36.26	0.24

The Pearson correlation coefficient was applied to examine the relationship between the research variables (Table 2).

Table 2  
Correlation matrix of research variables

Variables	Parent-child interaction	Sense of security	Entitlement schema	Adaptation	Resilience
Parent-child interaction	1	-	-	-	-
Sense of security	0.60*	1	-	-	-
Entitlement schema	-0.61*	-0.55*	1	-	-
Adaptation	0.49*	0.56*	-0.59*	1	-
Resilience	0.69*	0.54*	-0.59*	0.68*	1

\* p < 0.05

The results show that parent-child interaction, sense of security and resilience have a positive and significant effect on adaptation, while entitlement schema has a

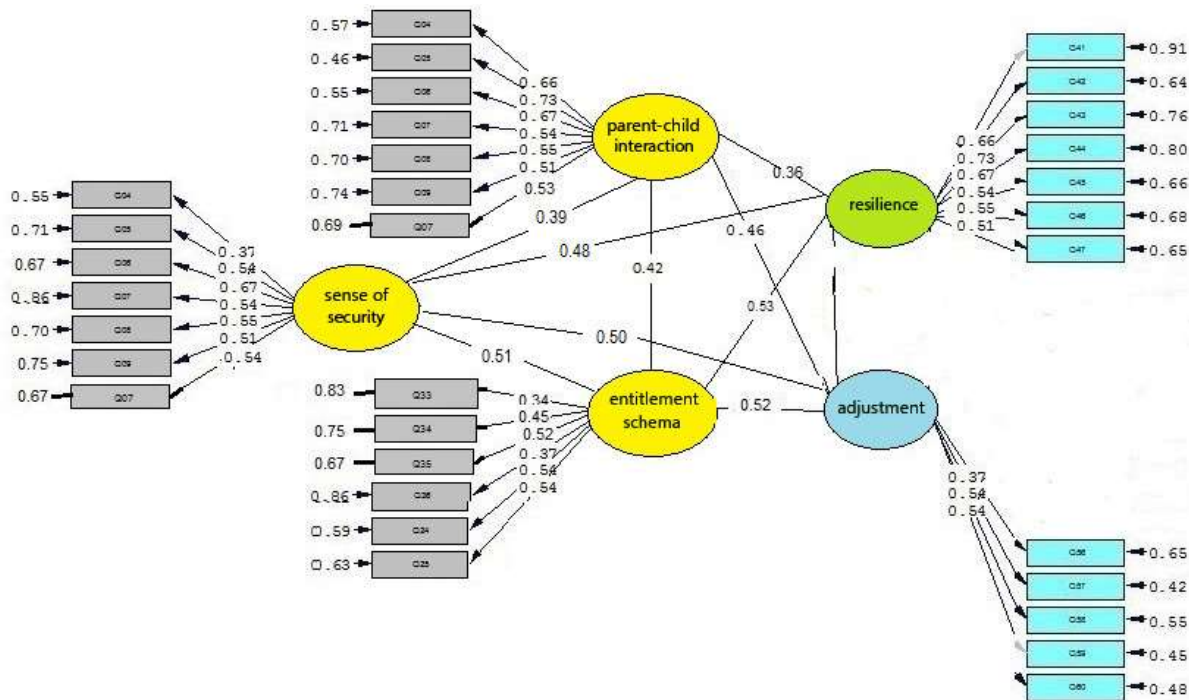
negative and significant effect on adaptation. Table 3 displays the fit indices of the model, which confirm that the model fits the data well and appropriately.

Table 3  
Fit indices of the structural model

Fit index	$\chi^2/df$	RMSEA	GFI	AGFI	NFI	NNFI	IFI
Acceptable values	>2	>0.1	> 0.9	>0.9	>0.9	>0.9	0 - 1
Calculated values	1.384	0.024	0.93	9	0.94	0.96	0.95

Figure 2 shows the path coefficients between the research variables.

Figure 2: Path coefficients between research variables



The results show that parent-child interaction (0.52), sense of security (0.46) and entitlement schema (-0.49) have a direct effect on adaptation, as indicated by the path coefficients and critical values (5.85, 7.83 and 5.11, respectively). The results also show that resilience plays a mediating role between

these variables and adaptation, as there is an indirect effect between parent-child interaction (0.53), sense of security (0.36), entitlement schema (-0.49) and adaptation, with critical values of 5.81, 4.36 and 5.09, respectively.

#### 4. Discussion

The quality of parent-child interaction influences the child's adjustment in various aspects of his/her social life. The closer and healthier the relationship between parents and children, the more the child can adapt to different situations and challenges. Effective communication and interaction between parent and child can also enhance the child's performance in new life circumstances. Young (2022) argues that negative interactions of parents can impair the child's social skills and make him/her avoid close communication with peers. On the other hand, positive interactions between parent and child can foster the child's adjustment, so that he/she feels that family members can solve their problems, exchange their thoughts and feelings, and understand each other. This can lead to more adjustment in the family and society for the adolescent (Yazdani & Fakhimi-Farhadi, 2021).

The family environment and the conditions that foster the children's development have a profound impact on the individuals' adaptive behavior. The more secure and warm the relationships among the family members are, the better the person can perform in his/her social roles and show more adaptive behavior. The lack of this intimate atmosphere and close relationships between the parents and the child can cause problems for the individual in adapting to different personal and social situations. Lotfi Kashani & Vaziri (2022) found that unfavorable conditions in the family and the violence of parents, injustice and humiliation of the adolescent, can cause insecurity and

psychological-social problems and maladjustment in adolescent students.

The findings related to the effect of entitlement schema on adjustment and the relationship between these two variables are explained by the cognitive approach, which states that the reason for the individuals' adjustment problems is not the environment and the events around, but the perception and conception that they form in their mind of these phenomena (Mazlom and Niknam, 2018). According to the cognitive view, the primary incompatible schemas, which are the perceptions and beliefs of ourselves and others in different life situations, have a prominent role in the adjustment of individuals, especially adolescent students, and these schemas can affect the person's life in different dimensions. In the present research, one of the criteria of these schemas, namely entitlement schema, has been investigated, and the results show its influence on the students' adjustment.

The mediating role of resilience in the relationship between parent-child interaction and adjustment is also discussed. Healthy relationships and interactions and sufficient parental attention to the child help the child develop an independent and compatible personality with the home, society and school environment. In other words, when a person has experienced effective communication in his or her family and has not felt threatened by the lack of parental support, the person has the potential to grow and flourish even in situations that face the challenges and problems of life, because this person has a higher resilience and consequently better

adjustment. As Gratz and Gunderson (2006) say, family and social interactions foster resilience in stressful situations and enhance activity and response to social situations and more adjustment in those situations. Furthermore, the mediating role of resilience in the relationship between the sense of security and adjustment is explained. The sense of security and confidence that is received in the family can influence the person's ability to cope with stressful situations of life and, in other words, increase the person's resilience. According to the research that has been done in the field of resilience, this concept has a close relationship with the adjustment skills of individuals, so that the more the person's ability to control and manage himself or herself in the face of unpleasant and critical situations, the better he or she can adapt to different environments and situations.

Finally, the mediating role of resilience in the relationship between the schema of entitlement and adjustment is described. Incompatible and ineffective schemas that occupy the minds of people and cause unrealistic perceptions about themselves and others often create an incompatible and negative mindset for the person that has a direct relationship with resilience and an indirect effect on the person's social performance and adjustment.

## 5. Conclusion

This study had some limitations that might affect the generalizability of the results, such as the correlational design, the use of self-report instruments, and the restriction of the

sample to female high school students in Rudsar city. Future studies should explore more the role of family and its developmental aspects in the adaptation of adolescents. The results of this study suggest that family and the reciprocal relationships within it are the most influential factor on personality, which also affect the individual-social adaptation of adolescent children significantly. Among these reciprocal relationships, the parent-child relationship and the parenting style that parents adopt create a sense of basic security in individuals, and this sense of security can influence various aspects of the individual-social life of the child, both in the present and in the future. Another interesting point in our research was the role of early schemas, especially the schema of entitlement standard, in the level of students' adaptation. This shows the role of thinking and attitude of people about themselves and others, and how they can influence their interpersonal relationships. Finally, we examined the relationship between resilience and individuals' adaptation as a mediating role, and we found that this variable had an indirect relationship with the dimensions of adaptation, consistent with other studies in this field.

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## Conflicts of Interest

The Authors declare that there is no conflict of interest with any organization. Also, this research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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