



Mother's Future Expectation and Child Behavior

KEYWORDS

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ABSTRACT *The objective of present investigation was to study the correlation between future expectation of mothers and the efficacy behaviors of their children. Previous literature strongly and efficiently show that expectations play a significant role in directing our behaviors. This study was undertaken on children aged 8 to 12 years and their mothers. Children were from two groups either chronically ill or healthy. A total of 300 hundred persons participated in this study. Of these 75 were chronically ill children and their mothers and 75 were normal healthy children and their mothers. Mother's future expectation was assessed through an interview schedule and efficacy behaviors of children were assessed by another interview schedule. Efficacy behaviors of children were included educational behavior, social relationship and future expectation of child and perception of family environment. All these behaviors inclusively called total score of efficacy. Results revealed that mother's future expectations have very significant and positive correlation with their children's efficacy behavior. It was found significant in both of the cases whether children were chronically ill or healthy. Mother's future expectation was positively and significantly correlated with children's educational behavior, social relationship, future expectation and perception of family environment. This study presents a ray of hope for children in the form of their mother's future expectation. If mother has positive future expectation about her child then it will help the child either in making success in life or coping with life problems like chronic illness.*

Introduction

Life is full of expectations. Everybody has ample expectations. One can expect from himself, teachers expect from students, peer expect from their peer, parents expect from their child and in broader level society and community also expect from ourselves. All these expectations play a significant role in directing our behaviors. Early studies in psychology, focusing on the effect of experimenter's expectations on the responses of their research subjects showed that experimenters can and often do exert subtle, unintended social influence on their subjects, eliciting responses that tended to confirm the hypothesis of the studies (Rosenthal, 1966). Studies very clearly show that teacher expectancy work as self fulfilling prophecy with respect to their pupils. Not only positive expectations have advantageous effect but it was also found that negative expectations can potentially affect literally hundreds of thousands children adversely.

Enough literature is available on teacher's expectancy and it is a fact that teacher expectancy affects student's various behaviors. Optimistic expectation of teacher concerning student success is related to an optimistic future orientation of these students. Teacher's belief in their student's success seem to motivate teachers to communicate more with such students, to pay more attention and to encourage them more verbally and non verbally.

Mother's future expectation also play very significant role in her child's life. Mother's future expectation is important because it influences the process of socialization and the future orientation of the child. Mother transmits subjective values and goals concerning the desired and undesired development of the child. Mother structures future of her child in a certain way and organize his/her socialization and educational goals and behaviors according to her own hopes, fears and wishes for the future. In the light of many evidences it can be said that mother's expectations are related with their children's future expectations. Mother's realistic expectations (not demanding too little

or too much from the child) enhances the development of achievement motivation (Heckhausen, 1980).

Mother's expectations from her child affects action and behaviors of child and generally her expectation gives motivation and direction to child behavior. Mother's future expectations have more implication with reference to illness of child. Chronic illness is a stressful situation for the child and he / she needs extra help, support and attention. It can be suggested that dealing with chronically ill child, if mother expects that, what she expects from other child (siblings) and treats the ill child as normal, then it will be a support to the child. Thus expectations of mother affects both, the coping processes of child and their future activities. On this respect mother's future expectations immerge as a very important factor for well being of her child.

It can be said therefore that expectations of mothers have greater implication value and it was worthy to investigate the role of mother's future expectations in the copying and efficacy behaviors of their children, who were either healthy or chronically sick.

Method

Sample:

The sample consisted of three hundred people. There were two groups of children between the ages of 7 and 13 years and their mothers and group II consisted of 75 normal healthy children and their mothers 75. Group II served as a control group. In group 1, children who were suffering from some type of chronic illness like TB, epilepsy, kidney trouble, schematic heart disease, congenital heart disease, sickle cell anemia and asthma were included. In both groups children from different socioeconomic classes – low, middle and high socioeconomic were interviewed.

Instruments

Two measures were used in this study.

Interview schedule for mother's future expectations - A structured interview schedule was used to assess future

expectations of mothers.

Interview schedule for efficacy behaviors of children - Efficacy behavior was comprised of three behaviors naming educational behavior, social relationship and future expectations. All three behaviors jointly called efficacy behaviors.

Procedure

Many pediatricians and pediatric surgeons of the city were contacted and subjects were selected from their outpatient clinics so as to collect data on chronically ill children and their mothers. These children and their mothers were interrogated individually and relevant information was obtained using different instruments. Healthy children and their mothers were contacted in their homes.

Results

Correlations between mother’s future expectation and children’s efficacy behaviors were carried out and depicted in Table 1 . These corrections clearly show that mother’s future expectations are significantly (at.01 level) and positively correlated with children’s educational behaviors, social relationship and their future expectations. Children’s total score of efficacy was also very significantly correlated with mother’s future expectations.

Table -1
Correlations between Mother’s future expectation and Children’s efficacy behaviors

Children’s behaviors	Educational Behaviors	Social Behaviors	Future expectation	Total Score of efficacy
Mother’s future expectation	.62**	.42**	.54**	.63**

Table 2 shows the correlations between mother’s future expectations and children’s behaviors in both groups i.e. chronically ill and healthy separately. It was found again in very significant manner that mother’s future expectation is much more important for their children . All correlations in both groups were significant and chronically ill group has slightly higher correlations than healthy group. This finding has greater importance and implication value.

Table -2

Correlation between month’s future expectation and children’s efficacy behavior in both group i.e. chronically ill and healthy group separately.

Children’s Behaviors	Chronically ill group				Healthy Group			
	Educational Behavior	Socials Relationship	Future Expectation	Total Score of efficacy	Educational Behavior	Socials Relationship	Future Expectation	Total Score of efficacy
Mother’s future expectation	.60**	.42**	.45**	.60**	.058**	.39**	.57**	.58**

Discussion

Findings of present study very prominently show the positive influence of mother’s future expectations on efficacy behaviors of their children. Parental expectations about child’s future convey a lot more to the child, besides the specific expectations expressed by the parent. Parental expectations provide the child the glimpse into, either a rose garden or a barren, blazing void, seen through borrowed glasses of parents. Mother’s positive expectation about the chronically ill child ensures encouragement and suggests to the child that he is worthy. It instills a sense of self worth in the child and gives him confidence to formulate his own plans for future and work towards them.

Adoptive tasks and experiences include futurity by definition, for example retaining a belief in the future potential and productivity of patients is both futures related and adaptive. Setting short term and long term goals and priorities for coping efforts call for a sense of future and organized future expectation(Rakowski 1986) . According to model of Harris and Rosenthal (1985) it can be suggested that mother’s future expectations are proximal independent various parenting behaviors and interactions. These behaviors will mediate between mother’s expectations about child’s future and behaviors efficacy of their children.

Thus mother’s future oriented outlook and future expectations from her child’s future enhance self worth and self concept and motivates the child to work in the direction of mother’s expectations. This will be results in children’s adjustment to educational task , social relationship , future expectations, perception of family environment and total efficacy of behaviors.

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