

An exploratory study of the
relationship between fathering and
self-esteem of young adult women.

by

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I hereby declare that this dissertation is my own work and that I have not submitted it for the degree at any other university.

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ABSTRACT

The present study investigated the relationship between variables of father's behaviour and their daughter's levels of self-esteem - both were explored based on the perceptions of the daughter. Self-esteem was viewed as the measure of worthiness that one attributed to oneself, whilst the variables of father's behaviour included support, punishment, control, rejection, indulgence, autonomy and protectiveness. The same elements of mother's behaviour were also considered to see how they related to their daughter's self-esteem; the primary motive for doing this was to provide a contrast to the outcome of the fathering information.

The participation of seventy-seven young adult women between the ages of 21 and 34, and from different race groups and cultural backgrounds was requested through a number of associates who then passed the relevant questionnaires on to their associates. Respondents were asked to return the questionnaires fully completed, and data on father variables and self-esteem were then used from these questionnaires.

Statistical analysis involved non-parametric analyses in the form of Spearman's Correlation Rank and demonstrated a significant, negative correlation between protectiveness and self-esteem ($r = -.368$, $p < 0.001$, 13.54% of variance) only for the father behaviours, while for the mother behaviours significant correlations existed between praise and self esteem, rejection and self-esteem, punishment self-esteem and protectiveness and the young adult women's self-esteem. Theoretically and practically the implications of the findings suggest that parents and the roles they play may have an impact on their daughter's self-esteem, at least for this sample, and thus future research

into the meanings of the above findings and their impact on children - or more specifically - female children is a worthwhile undertaking, as is consideration of the stereotypical gender roles that society upholds.

OPSOMMING

Die huidige studie ondersoek die verhouding tussen pa's se gedrag en hul dogters se selfbeeld vlakke – beide ondersoek is gebaseer op die dogters se persepsies. Selfbeeld is beskou as die maatstaf van die waarde wat 'n persoon toegeskryf aan die self, terwyl die veranderlikes van vaderlike gedrag ondersteuning, straf, beheer, verwerping, beskerming, outonomie en betrokkenheid insluit. Dieselfde elemente van moeders se gedrag was ook oorweeg om te ondersoek hoe hierdie elemente verwant is aan hul dogters se selfbeeld; die primere motief om dit te doen, was om 'n kontras met die uitkoms van die vaderlike ouerskapsinligting te verskaf.

Die deelneming van sewe-en-sewentig jong volwasse vrouens tussen die ouderdomme van 21 en 34, van verskillende rasse groepe en kulturele agtergrond was versoek deur 'n aantal vennote, wat toe die relevante vraelyste aangestuur het aan hulle vennote. Respondente is gevra om die voltooides vraelyste terug te stuur, en die data van vaderlike veranderlikes en selfbeeld in die vraelyste is daarna gebruik vir ontledingsdoeleindes.

Die statistiese analise het nie-parametriese analise behels in die vorm van Spearman se Korrelasie Rang, en het 'n betekenisvolle negatiewe korrelasie tussen beskerming en selfbeeld gedemonstreer ($r = -.368$, $p < 0.001$, 13.54% van veranderlikes) slegs vir die pa's se gedrag, terwyl daar vir die moeders se gedrag 'n betekenisvolle korrelasie bestaan het tussen lof en selfbeeld, verwerping en selfbeeld, straf en selfbeeld en beskerming en die jong volwasse vrouens se selfbeeld. Die implikasies van die bevindinge het teoreties en

prakties voorgestel dat ouers en die rolle wat hul speel moontlik 'in impak op hul dogters se selfbeeld kan he, ten minste in hierdie monster, en dus kan toekomstige navorsing oor die betekenis van die bogenoemde bevindinge en die impak daarvan op kinders – of meer spesifiek – vroulike kinders – beskou word as waardevol om te onderneem so ook die oorweging van die stereotipiese geslagsrolle wat deur die samelewing onderhou word.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>CONTENT</u>	<u>Page number</u>
TITLE PAGE	i
DECLARATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
OPSOMMING	v
CONTENT	vii
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
<u>CHAPTER ONE:</u>	
1 INTRODUCTION	1 – 3
1.1 FURTHER STRUCTURING OF THE STUDY	3
<u>CHAPTER TWO:</u>	
2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE	4 –7
2.1 INTRODUCTION	4
2.2 THEORETICAL VIEWPOINTS	4
2.2.1 THE LINKS BETWEEN SYSTEMS THEORY AND OTHER MODERNISTIC THEORIES	4 – 7
2.2.2 SYSTEMS THEORY/FIRST ORDER CYBERNETICS	7 – 52
2.2.2.1 What is Systems Theory?:	
Relationships and Patterns of Interaction	7 - 9
2.2.2.2 The Observer Stance	9 – 10
2.2.2.3 Recursion	10
2.2.2.4 Communication	10 - 11
2.2.2.5 Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication	11 – 12
2.2.2.6 Context	12
2.2.2.7 Feedback	12 – 13

CONTENT	Page number
2.2.2.8 Homeostasis, Morphostasis & Morphogenesis	13 – 14
2.2.2.9 Open and Closed Systems	14 – 16
2.2.2.10 Criticisms of Systems Theory	16 – 19
2.2.2.11 A Criticism based on Second Order Cybernetics	19
2.2.3 SYSTEM’S THEORY AND ‘THE PIE’	20
2.2.4 FREUD’S THEORY	20 -21
2.2.4.1 Freud’s Structure of the Mind	21 – 23
2.2.4.2 The Stages of Development	23 – 26
2.2.4.3 The Oedipal/Electra Stage of Development	26
2.2.4.4 Criticisms of Freudian Theory	26 – 29
2.2.5 OBJECT RELATIONS THEORY	29 - 37
2.2.5.1 What is Object Relations and Attachment Theory?	29 – 31
2.2.5.2 The ‘Object’ in Object Relations	31
2.2.5.3 Attachment Theory	31 – 36
2.2.5.4 Conclusion	36 - 37
2.2.6 CURRENT IDEAS ABOUT FATHERING	37 - 43
2.2.6.1 Gender Roles of the Father	38 – 41
2.2.6.2 Relevant Research	41 – 42
2.2.6.3 Conclusion	42 - 43
2.2.7 SELF-ESTEEM	43 - 48
2.2.7.1 What is Self-esteem?	43 – 44
2.2.7.2 Level of Self-esteem	44 – 46
2.2.7.3 What are the Effects of Self-esteem on an Individual’s life?	46 – 48
2.2.7.4 What influence does parenting have on an Individual’s life?	48 – 49
2.2.8 CONCLUSION	49 - 50

CONTENT	Page number
<u>CHAPTER THREE:</u>	
3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	51 - 62
3.1 Research Aims & Strategy	51
3.1.1 Rationale	51
3.1.2 Hypothesis	52
3.1.3 Participants	52
3.1.3.1 Age	52
3.1.3.2 Race	52
3.1.3.3 Religion	53
3.1.3.4 Marital Status	53
3.1.3.5 Languages	53
3.1.3.6 Participants Questionnaire Details	53
3.1.3.7 Participant Conclusion	54
3.2 Instruments	54
3.2.1 Introduction	54
3.2.2 Perceptions of Parenting: The Cornell Behaviours Description (CPBD)	54 - 55
3.2.2.1 Scales and Dimensions	55
3.2.2.2 Administration	55 - 56
3.2.2.3 Evaluation of Constructs Measured	57
3.2.2.4 Reliability	57
3.2.2.5 Validity	57
3.2.2.6 Conclusion	58
3.2.3 The Coopersmith Self-esteem Inventory	58 - 59
3.2.3.1 The Adult Form/Form C	58
3.2.3.2 Uses of the Inventory	58 - 59
3.2.3.3 Scoring	59
3.2.3.4 Interpretation	59
3.2.3.5 Reliability and Stability	59
3.2.3.6 Validity	59 - 60
3.2.3.7 Norms for the Adult Form	60
3.2.3.8 Additional Form	60 - 61
3.2.3.9 Design and Procedure	61

<u>CONTENT</u>	<u>Page number</u>
3.2.3.10 Statistics	61 – 62
3.3 Conclusion of the Methodological Discussion	62
<u>CHAPTER FOUR:</u>	
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	63 – 68
4.1 Self-Esteem Totals	64
4.2 Conclusion	64 & 67
4.3 DISCUSSION	68 - 91
4.3.1 Introduction	68 - 69
4.3.2 Differences in the Correlations between Mother and Father Variables and Self-Esteem	69 - 70
4.3.2.1 Rejection and Self-Esteem	70 - 72
4.3.2.2 Protectiveness in Self-Esteem	72 – 74
4.3.2.3 Punishment and Self-Esteem	74 – 76
4.3.2.4 Praise and Self-Esteem	76 – 77
4.3.2.5 Conclusion	77 - 78
4.4 An Integrated Theoretical View of the Results	78 - 90
4.4.1 Self-Esteem and the Results	78
4.4.2 The Observer Stance	79
4.4.3 Patterns, Interaction and Process	79 – 83
4.4.4 Object Relations Theory and the Results	83 - 85
4.4.5 Homeostasis, Morphostasis and Morphogenesis	85
4.4.6 Open and Closed Systems	84
4.4.7 Context	86 – 88
4.4.8 Freudian Theory and the Results	88 – 90
4.4.9 Caution Re: Meta-theory	90
4.5 Conclusions of Discussion	91
<u>CHAPTER FIVE</u>	
5. CRITIQUE	92
5.1 Limitations of the Questionnaires	92 - 93
5.2 Limitations of the Current Study	94
5.3 Suggestions for Future Research	95

<u>CONTENT</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	96 - 97
<u>7. REFERENCES</u>	98 - 104
<u>APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRES USED</u>	105 - 117
Descriptive Statistics	105
Cornell Parent Behaviour Inventory Mother Form	106 - 110
Cornell Parent Behavioural Inventory Father Form	111 - 115
Coopersmith Self-esteem Inventory	116 - 117

LIST OF TABLES **page number**

Table 1: Father Variables and Self-Esteem	65
Table 2: Mother Variables and Self-Esteem	66

