Parental Control and Autonomy Support as Predictors of Filial Behaviors in Emerging Adults: The Mediating Role of Filial Closeness

Maryam Javaid

1Pakistan Institute of Living and Learning

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Abstract

The paradigm shift of intergenerational relationships demands investigation into parenting practices as determinants of emerging adult behaviors. The current study examined whether Pakistani emerging adults’ perceptions of parental autonomy support and control predict their filial behaviors and whether filial closeness explains this relationship. 218 university students (Mage = 20.73, SD = 1.48, 52.3% male) from Islamabad, Pakistan, recruited through convenience sampling, completed measures of perceived parental behaviors, filial behaviors, and filial closeness. Mediation analysis using PROCESS by Hayes was conducted to find that filial closeness partially and fully explains the relationship between autonomy support and control, respectively, with filial behaviors. Therefore, parental autonomy support and control lead to significant changes in perceived closeness by Pakistani emerging adults which determine the care they provide to parents. The findings direct focus on programs and policies targeted towards parents to promote healthy family dynamics by regulating parental control and autonomy supportive behaviors.

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