Moderating role of Gender between Parental Neglect and Callous Unemotional Traits

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ABSTRACT

Parental neglect in childhood is considered a trauma because it impacts individual psychological functioning. The present research aimed to explore the impact of parental neglect on callous unemotional traits in young adults. Moreover, this study aimed to explore the role of gender in parental neglect and callous unemotional traits. The study was conducted on 500 young adults (men = 282, women = 218) with an age ranging from 18 to 23 years (M = 20.58, SD = 1.51) by using a survey research design. Instruments administered in study comprised of rejection sub-scale of Short Form of Egna Minnen Betraffande Uppfostran-Urdu Version (Zafar, 2014) and Urdu version of Inventory of Callous Unemotional Traits (Mazher, 2020). Results of regression analysis showed that parental neglect significantly positively predicted callous unemotional traits. Moreover, gender moderated in the relationship between parental neglect and callous unemotional traits. Identifying these psychological consequences in result of parental neglect is important because targeting these factors in all preventive programs may help to manage/reduce callous unemotional traits.
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BACKGROUND

Previous research showed that young adults who experienced child neglect are at significant risk for CU traits (Bisby et al., 2017; Kimonis et al., 2013). But the role of gender has not been explored yet in Pakistan adults. This research explored the role of gender between parental neglect and callous unemotional traits in Pakistani adults.

OBJECTIVES & HYPOTHESES

Objectives
1) To explore the relationship between Parental neglect and CU traits.
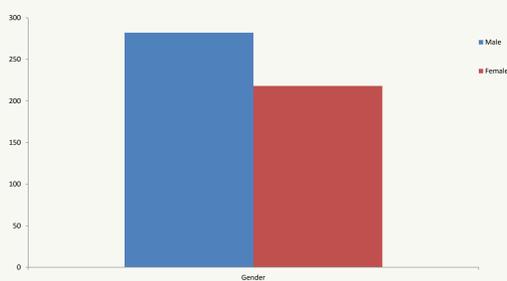2) To explore the moderating role of gender between Parental neglect and CU traits.

Hypotheses
1) Parental neglect positively predicts CU traits in young adults.
2) There is moderating role of gender between Parental neglect and CU traits.

SAMPLE

The sample consisted of 500 young adults (men = 282, women = 218) with age ranging from 18-25 (M = 20.58 , SD = 1.51) from different universities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Gender Percentage

MEASURES

Scales	k	α	Operational Definitions
Rejection	7	.85	High score on rejection shows high neglectful parenting
Inventory of CUT	24	.94	High score on scale shows high callous unemotional traits
Callousness	11	.86	
Uncaring	8	.83	
Unemotional	5	.81	

PROCEDURE

1 Seeking permission and approaching sample through HODs

2 Briefing the sample about study and taking inform consent

3 Anonymity and confidentiality Right to leave

RESULTS

Table 1

Linear Regression Analysis predicting Callous Unemotional Traits from Parental Neglect (N = 500)

			Callous Unemotional Traits	
				95% CI
Predictors	SE	B	LL	UL
Constant	1.28		-15.84	-10.80
Parental Neglect	.12	.77***	3.05	3.52
Adj. R^2		.60		
F		735.87***		

Note. CI = Confidence Interval; LL = Lower Limit; UL = Upper Limit.
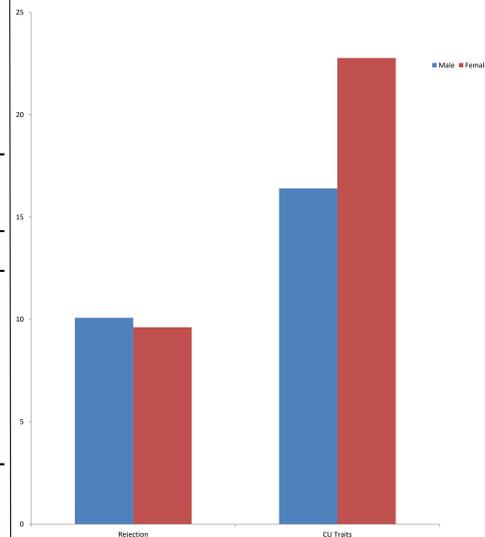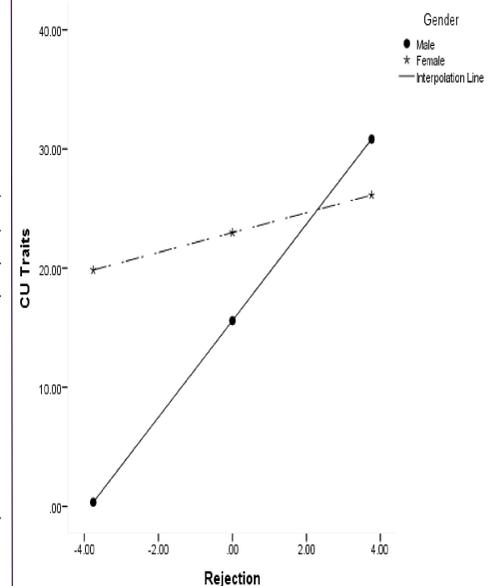***p <.001.

Gender Differences

Table 2

Moderating Effect of Gender for Parental neglect in Predicting Callous Unemotional Traits (N = 500)

	Callous Unemotional Traits		
		95% CI	
Predictors	B	LL	UL
Constant	18.81***	18.10	19.54
Parental Neglect	2.65***	2.37	2.92
Gender	7.39***	5.89	8.90
Parental Neglect × Gender	-3.22***	-3.85	-2.58
R^2	.75		
F	923.54***		

Note. CI = Confidence Interval; LL = Lower Limit; UL = Upper Limit.
***p<.001.

CONCLUSION

Results of this study showed that parental neglect positively and significantly predicted CU traits in young adults. Results are in line with previous studies (Dackis et al., 2015; Oshri et al., 2020).
Results of this study showed that gender moderated in the relationship between parental neglect and CU traits. It means that males experiencing parental neglect have more CU traits as compared to females experiencing parental neglect.

LIMITATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

Limitations
1) Data was collected only from literate young adults.
2) Majority of the participants were from middle class.
3) Social desirability might have influenced the responses of participants

Implications
1) Building more effective parenting can be beneficial source of intervention.
2) Individual and group intervention plans can be designed to reduce/manage CU traits.

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