A Structural Equation Model of Attachment Among Adolescent Mothers and Their Mothers

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Abstract

Introduction: Attachment between adolescent mothers and their mothers is important source of support for enhancing adolescent mothers’ feelings of security, protection, and comfort when faced with distress or threat. The quality of attachment can be positive or negative outcomes with adolescent mother and their family. Therefore, it is essential that integrative research to identify the predictors and mediator of this attachment could be applied to increase the benefits of attachment outcomes.

Objective: This study aimed to develop a model to explain the factors influencing attachment among adolescent mothers and their mothers.

Methodology: A multi-stage random sampling technique was used to recruit a total of 240 adolescent mothers who aged under 19 years old and lived with their own mothers (grandmother). Data were collected between January to July 2019 at vaccination-baby clinics in health promoting hospitals, using seven self-reported questionnaires. SEM analysis was conducted to test the hypotheses that family functioning and social support would be associated with attachment among adolescent mothers and their mothers.

Results: The SEM showed that family functioning ($\beta = .51, p < .001$) and social support ($\beta = .17, p = .006$) were significantly associated with attachment among adolescent mothers and their mothers. Furthermore, family functioning directly affected social support ($\beta = .49, p < .001$). The SEM has satisfactorily fit with the data ($\chi^2 = 51.966, p = .221, df = 45, CMIN/df = 1.16, GFI = 0.966, AGFI = 0.941, CFI = 0.995, and RMSEA = .025$). The final model accounted for 38% of the variance in attachment.
**Conclusion:** The findings highlight the significance predictor and mediator of attachment among adolescent mothers and their mothers. Predictor was family functioning. Mediator was social support. Findings from this study could be useful in the design of effective intervention among adolescent mothers and grandmothers in order to enhance positive attachment outcome.

**Keywords:** Attachment; Adolescent mothers; Mothers of adolescent mothers; Structural Equation Modeling

**References:**

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