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

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Attachment between adolescent mothers and their mothers is an important source of support for enhancing adolescent mothers’ feelings of security, protection, and comfort when faced with distress or threat.

Adolescent mothers are not ready to become a mother and their motherhood becomes problematic for them.

They are more likely to perceive this transition role to motherhood as a critical period.
Introduction

- Consequently, most Thai adolescent mothers (60 - 67.7%) stay with their mothers and original families in order to receive familial support.
- The quality of attachment can be positive or negative outcomes with adolescent mother and their family.
- Therefore, it is essential to identify the predictors and mediator of this attachment and could be applied to increase the benefits of attachment outcomes.
This study aimed to develop a model to explain the factors influencing attachment among adolescent mothers and their mothers.
Hypotheses

- family functioning & social support would be associated with attachment among adolescent mothers and their mothers.

Hypothesized model
**Methodology**

**Participants**

- A multi-stage random sampling technique was used to recruit a total of 240 adolescent mothers.

**Inclusion criteria**

- aged under 19 years old
- lived with their own mothers for at least 6 months
- had their baby aged about 6-12 months with no congenital anomaly or serious health condition.
- able to read and write Thai
Methodology

Data were collected between January to July 2019 at vaccination-baby clinics in 31 health promoting hospitals.

Used three self-reported questionnaires:
- the Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (IPPA).
- the Chulalongkorn Family Inventory (CFI).
- the Postpartum Support Questionnaire (PSQ).

SEM analysis was conducted to test the hypotheses.

The IRB approval was obtained (IRB No. 02-10-2561)
Research setting

The Kingdom of Thailand

Chachoengsao
Chon Buri

Central
Northeast
Western
Northern
Southerner
Results

- Mean of age was 17.80 years
- 69.6% was living with spouse without marriage license
- 55.8% had unplanned pregnancy
- 58.34% lived with mother, family members, and spouse.
- 50.8% had completed lower secondary school,
- 45.4% had unemployed
# Results

## Table 1 Regression weights, direct (DE), indirect (IE), and total effects (TE) of the final modified model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exogenous variable</th>
<th>Endogenous variable</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>CR</th>
<th>DE</th>
<th>IE</th>
<th>TE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unstandardized</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Standardized</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Family functioning</td>
<td>Attachment</td>
<td>.97</td>
<td>.14</td>
<td>6.93</td>
<td>.51***</td>
<td>.08*</td>
<td>.59***</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Social support</td>
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<td>.17</td>
<td>6.54</td>
<td>.49***</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Attachment</td>
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<td>.06</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>.17**</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*SE* standard error, *CR* composite reliability

* p < .05, ** p < .01, *** p < .001
Results

❖ The SEM has satisfactorily fit with the data

❖ $\chi^2 = 51.966$, $p = .221$, $df = 45$, $\text{CMIN}/df = 1.16$, $\text{GFI} = 0.966$, $\text{AGFI} = 0.941$, $\text{CFI} = 0.995$, and $\text{RMSEA} = .025$).

❖ The final model accounted for 38 % of the variance in attachment
Family functioning had a positive direct effect on attachment:
❖ better problem solving, cohesion, & communication might have to provide feeling of togetherness, responsiveness, an increasing relationship in family that associated with higher levels of secure attachment.

Social support had a positive direct effect on attachment:
❖ by increasing feeling of security, life satisfaction, capacity to seek a problem solving and caring from attached figures
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.
Thank you very much for your attention!!

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