

Protective and Risk Factors of Marital Quality Among Parents of Children With ADHD

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The study examined the protective and risk factors in the quality of marital relationships of parents having a child with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD). A mixed method approach was used to analyze the data. For the quantitative part, a sample of 300 parents (150 mothers and 150 fathers) of 4-12 years old children having ADHD was engaged. Conners' Parent Rating Scale (1997), Ways of Coping Questionnaire (Folkman & Lazarus, 1989), Parental Stress Index (Abidin, 1995), and Couples Satisfaction Index (Funk & Rogge, 2007) were administered to collect the data. Stepwise regression analysis indicated that 20% of variance in marital quality was predicted by problem-focused coping, parental stress, income, birth order of a child, and child's gender. Eight parents among those who scored 2 standard deviations below the mean on 'Couples Satisfaction Index' were interviewed for the qualitative part. Through content analysis seven major themes (viz, lack of warmth from in-laws, husbands' detachment, lack of communication among couples, social dilemma, parents' characteristics, and financial difficulties) were identified which were contributing in poor marital relationship of these couples. Results showed that qualitative analysis complemented the quantitative analysis.

Keywords. Marital quality, ADHD, parental stress, risk factors.