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Abstract

The Impact of Parental Attachment Style on Conflict Resolution and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Outcome

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The aim of the study is to explore how attachment theory can inform the study of family communication and outcome in families with children suffering from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). In particular, the potential impact of parental attachment style on conflict resolution and on children and families outcome will be investigated.

The study will be questionnaire based and will involve two data collection points. A number of statistical methods will be used to analyse the data, primarily Regression and Structural Equation Modelling. Participants will be parents with a ADHD child, who will be recruited from independent ADHD charity organisations. There are four instruments to be used in this research:

- Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS) by Spanier (1976),
- Experiences in Close Relationships Inventory (ECR) by Brennan et al. (1998),
- Relationship Questionnaire (RQ) by Bartholomew & Horowitz (1991), and
- Thomas Kilmann Conflict Mode Instrument (TKI) by Thomas Kilmann (1974).

The questionnaires will be posted to the parents, after they give written consent.

The findings of this study may lead to:

- identification of helpful and unhelpful interpersonal strategies used by ADHD parents,
- contribution towards relevant intervention programs for parents of ADHD children, particularly those
- focusing on conflict resolution, and
- further research on factors facilitating supportive couple and family interaction.

In conclusion, we believe that our research will have a profound impact on the parents with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder children.