

Love deprivation in children: analysis of cultural variables depriving children of parental love and its repercussions on children's future lives

Dr. Aneela Afzal¹, Moeen Abbas², Dr. Nadeem Akhtar³, Dr. Tanvir Ali⁴, Abo ul Hassan Rashid⁵

¹(Department of Sociology, University of Arid Agriculture Rawalpindi)

²(Department of Management Sciences, Yanbu University College Saudi Arabia)

³(Department of Management Sciences, Yanbu University College Saudi Arabia)

⁴(Department of Agriculture Extension, University of Agriculture Faisalabad)

⁵(Department of Sociology, University of Arid Agriculture Rawalpindi)

Abstract: This study was designed to assess to what extent children and their caregivers understand the significance of parental deprivation and to what extent they share an awareness of the levels of deprivation children face. Cross sectional survey was carried out to gather data regarding parental love deprivation in children and its likely repercussions on their future lives. Multi stage sampling was employed in which 100 children aged 4 -12 were randomly selected to gauge love and affection they receive from their parents and also researched a random sample of 100 adults of varying age groups (30-65) to correlate love deprivation with different facets of their lives. Study was based on Rawalpindi as urban centre and five remote villages of Namal Valley in Mianwali District. Study revealed interesting results. Parents' income, education, and rural/urban origin came out as important factors in determining parental love towards their children. The results of study concluded that love deprivation syndrome amongst children in Pakistan is falling with an average of around 2 per cent per annum. Love deprivation is found to be more prevalent in uneducated, low income and rural segment of Pakistani society

Key words: Food security, Poverty, Expenditure, Policies

I. Introduction

Love is a great remedy for physical and mental well being of humans. Deprivation of parental love has been associated with countless psychological problems as well as physical ailments. Depressive behavior and hyper sensitivity of emotion caused by deprivation of love in early ages may even lead to chronic ailments like Diabetes, Obesity, heart Attack etc. Many of the social ills like intolerance, pretentiousness, and depression that we experience in contemporary Pakistan are also a natural corollary of parental love deprivation in early ages. "Results indicated a weighted prevalence of 17 per cent common child psychiatric disorders among primary school children in Pakistan which is higher than the world average (Hassan, 2010).

Early parental loss has been associated with many forms psychological problems like depressive behavior (Forrest et al., 1965; Hammen, 2005).

Early loss of parental love has also been associated with other forms of psychopathology, notably sociopathic personality, schizophrenia, hysterical personality (Clarke-Stewart et al., 1994).

Clinical Observation and research have linked parental love deprivation in children with such condition as Asthma, elevated blood pressure, Juvenile delinquency by the early childhood (Al-Mabuk and Downs, 1996). Hyper sensitivity of emotion caused by deprivation of love in early ages may even lead to chronic ailments like Diabetes, Obesity, Heart Attack etc. Many of the social ills like intolerance, pretentiousness, and depression that we experience in contemporary Pakistan are also a natural corollary of parental love deprivation in early ages.

II. Materials And Methods

Cross sectional survey was carried out to gather data regarding parental love deprivation in children and its likely repercussions on their future lives. In most of the other researches children are considered love deprived only if they lose one or both parents. But repercussions are same whether parents expire during childhood or children do not receive ample love from them. Multi stage sampling was employed in which 100 children aged 4 -12 were randomly selected to gauge love and affection they receive from their parents and also researched a random sample of 100 adults of varying age groups (30-65) to correlate love deprivation with different facets of

their lives. Study was based on Rawalpindi as urban centre and five remote villages of Namal Valley in Mianwali District.

III. Result And Discussion

Study revealed interesting results. Parents' income, education, and rural/urban origin came out as important factors in determining parental love towards their children. On the whole 30 percent of children felt deprived of love either from one or both parents (Fig. 1). This huge population of love deprived children is alarming especially if we look at its psychological, physical and social threats. Amongst those 60 percent were in the age group of 8-12 (Fig.2). Higher proportion in the higher age groups is partially significant of falling love deprivation because of overall improvement in human development index of Pakistani society and partially because parents focus more attention towards their younger offspring. Amongst these love deprived children around 70 percent resided in poor neighborhoods and belonged to poor economic strata of society (Fig. 3).

Love deprivation was the most prevalent in poor strata and the least in middle class while upper class falling in between (Fig. 4). In present study, the data indicates that middle class associated special importance to life, education and well being of their children and considered them an insurance policy to save their own future. On the other hand, poor class altogether ignored their children and upper class was not interacting so much with their children because they relied more on servants to look after the children.

Moreover present study indicates that around 82 percent of children whose parents' education was masters or equivalent received ample love and attention from their parents, (Fig. 5). Around 52 per cent children residing in rural areas complained lack of love and attention from their parents (Fig. 6). The reason is more combined family structure and some of the masculine society taboos even more prevalent in rural social fabric.

Adult research (30-65) revealed that around 75 percent of respondents felt deprived of love during childhood and higher love deprivation was complained by respondents with higher ages (50-65) (Fig. 7). Reasons for more childhood love deprivation in higher age groups are the socio cultural dynamics of that era when society was even more masculine with much higher number of combined families and higher number of children per household.

It was further revealed that respondents who received ample love from their parents settled quite early in their lives (23-26) and were leading stable lives emotionally as well as financially. On the other hand, respondents who were not satisfied with their parental love settled slightly later in their lives (25-27) and felt themselves emotionally unstable experiencing mood swings and higher levels of stress (Fig. 8). Love deprived children found to be quite unpredictable in their later lives and were living more extreme lives either extremely successful or total failures.

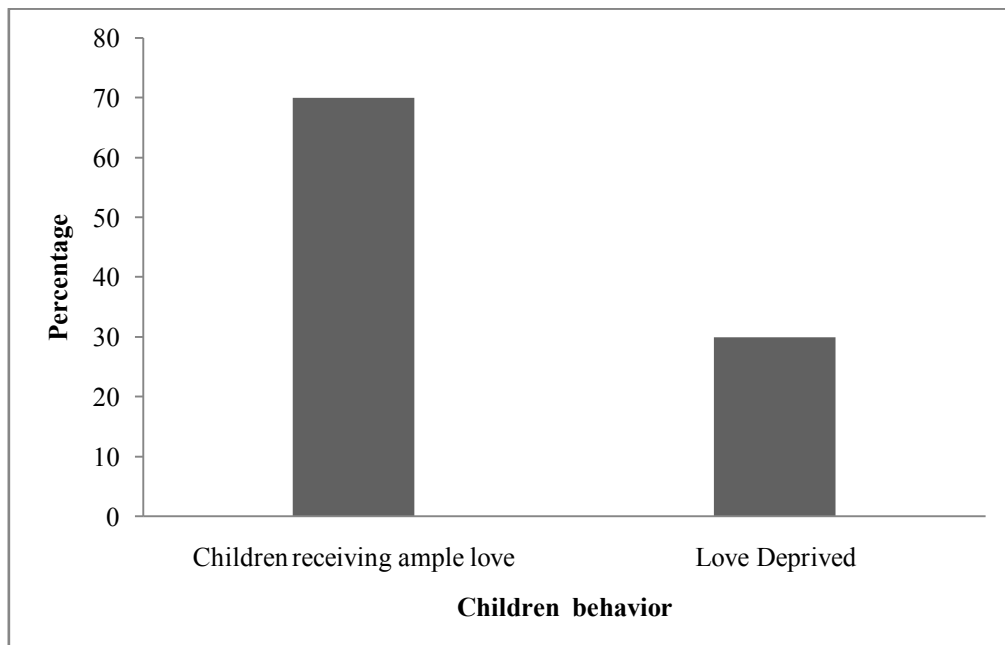


Fig. 1. Love deprived children out of total population

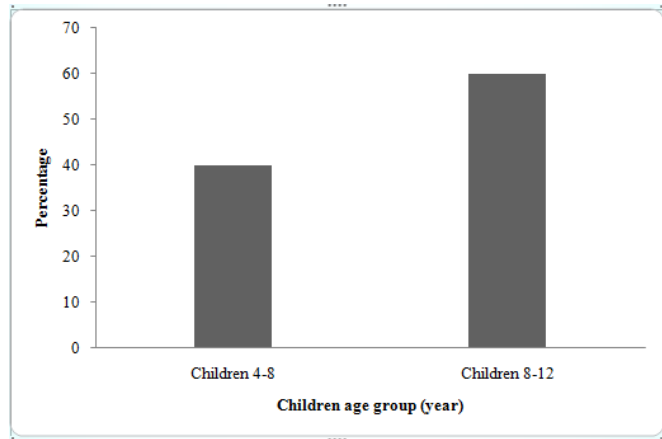


Fig.2. Children Love Deprivation according to age group

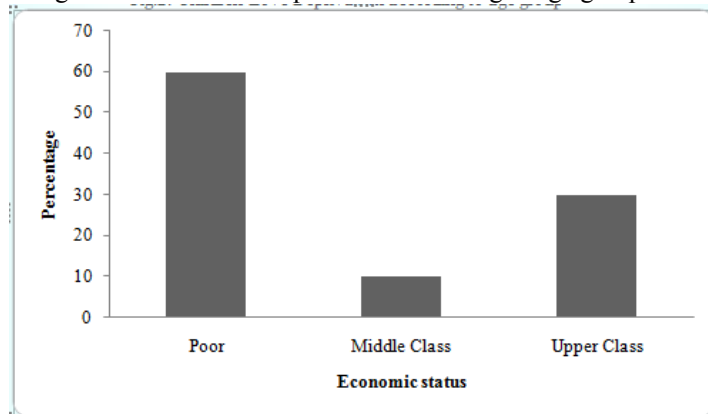


Fig. 3. Distribution of Love Deprivation in Economic Class

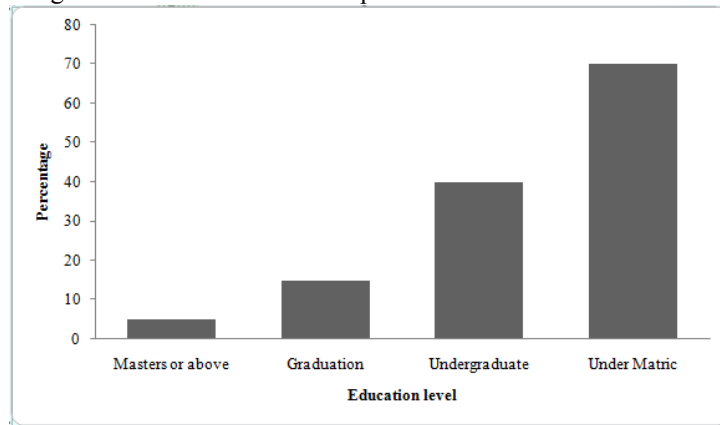


Fig. 4. Parent education and love deprivation in children

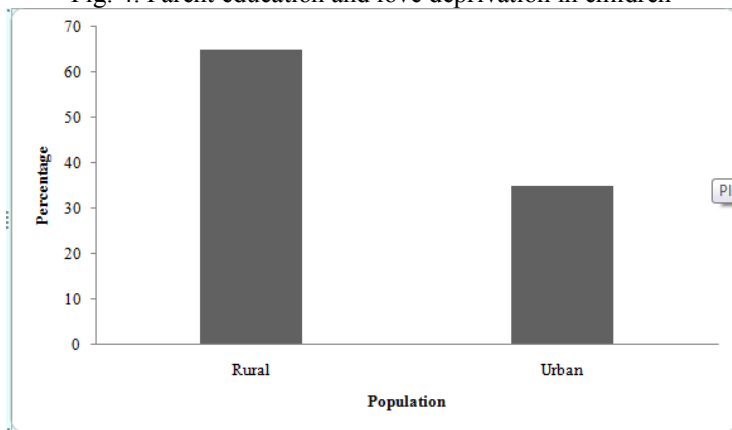


Fig.5. Rural/Urban Distribution and Love Deprivation in Children

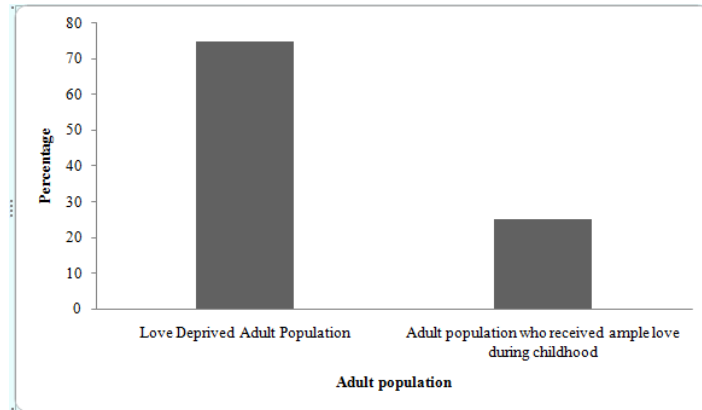


Fig.6. Love deprivation in adult population during child hood

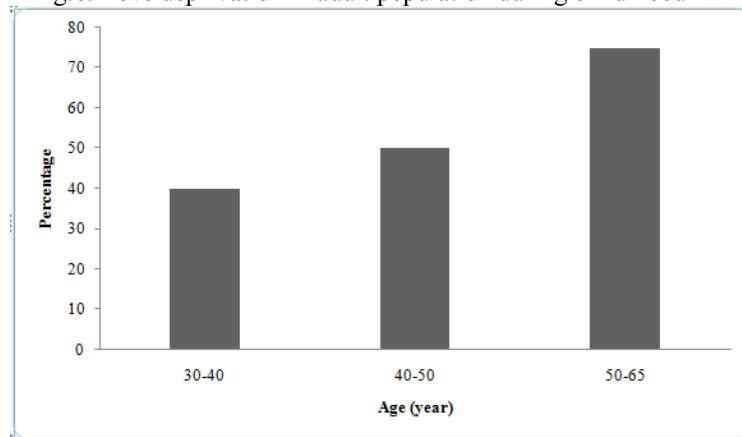


Fig. 7. Age distribution and love deprivation during childhood

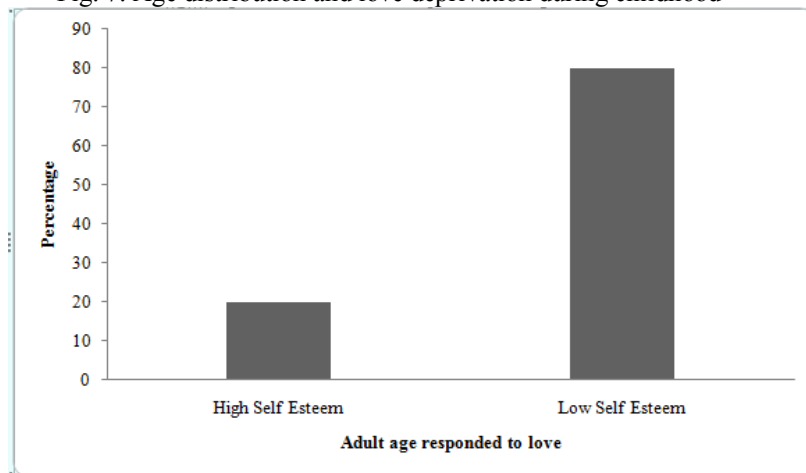


Fig.8. Adult age self esteem and childhood parental love deprivation

IV. Conclusion

It can be concluded from that findings of present study that love deprivation syndrome amongst children in Pakistan is falling with an average of around 2 percent per annum. Love deprivation is found to be more prevalent in uneducated, low income and rural segment of Pakistani society. Some of the Socio-cultural variables leading to a higher percentage of love deprived children are masculine nature of Pakistani society, physical aggression on children and wives, living of fathers in other locations for employment purposes, increasing generation gap between parents and children caused by a culture of late marriages, the information technology and media, and obviously lack of education and income on part of parents.

V. Recommendations

- Single most important factor alienating children of their fathers is physical aggression on children and wives. Special measures should be taken to stop physical aggression of male family members and in laws on females and children.
- Children in households with higher number often complained lack of love and attention from both of their parents. This gives us yet another impetus to drive population growth rate down.
- Net migration rate of Pakistan is -2.17 coupled with 3.1 per cent net urbanization rate (CIA World Fact Book). Vast majority people both in migration and urbanization are male members of the family moving to other countries and cities for employment purposes with their families living at the base. So, in such households (around 5% of total number of households), children are forced to live with only one parent normally their mothers. The other parent sparingly comes to the house living in some urban center or overseas for employment purposes. Living with only one parent also creates a feeling of love deprivation. Normally, the families part from their male heads for financial reasons. Overall growth of economy and average income will definitely sooth these kind of financial and social woes.
- Pakistan is basically a masculine society. So, this society categorically bifurcates responsibilities of male and female members of society. Looking after children is the sole responsibility of females. Social taboos are associated with treating children over the age of 7 and wives with love. These taboos become even stronger in combined families. People who treat their families with special love and care are often taunted as henpecked husbands which is utterly against our religion. This taboo is breaking with improvement in education and urbanization of population but people should be educated in this regard especially in rural areas and remote villages.
- Culture of late marriages results in generation gap between children and parents and also early death of parents. So, late marriages also give rise to love deprivation in children

References

- [1] Hassan, S. 2010. Parent and teacher based epidemiological survey of psychiatric morbidity amongst school children in Karachi, Pakistan. PhD thesis. Department of Health Sciences, University of Leicester.
- [2] Forrest, A.D., R.H. Fraser and R.G. Priest. 1965. Environmental Factors in Depressive Illness. *British J. Psychiatry*. 111: 243-253.
- [3] Hammen, H. 2005. Stress and Depression. *Ann. Rev. Clinical Psychol.* 1: 293-319.
- [4] Clarke-Stewart, K.A., I.C.P. Gruber and L.M. Fitzgerald. 1994. *Children at Home and in Day Care*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers, Hillsdale, New Jersey Hove, UK
- [5] Al-Mabuk, R.H. and W.R. Downs. 1996. Forgiveness Therapy with Parents of Adolescent Suicide Victims. *J Family Psychotherapy*. 7: 21-39.