

## Examining Children's Perception of Marital Conflict Regarding to Parental Attitude and Demographic Variables

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### Summary

The well-known theoreticians in developmental area, such as Havighurst, Erikson, Freud and Piaget, have emphasized the importance of childhood period. According to them, the primary school years have importance in terms of personality development. The results of the studies have shown that the parents to behave in authoritarian or democratic ways toward their child and the intensity of the conflicts between parents have effect on the affective, social and cognitive development of the child. For example, it is found that the children of democratic parents have more self-esteem, more adjustment level to school and environment, higher achievement level than the children of authoritarian parents. The marital conflict also effects negatively the personality development of the children. It has found that the children witnessed the marital conflicts have taken some negative role models and have perceived himself/herself as the reason of the conflict. It has seen that the children have guilty feelings, low self-esteem levels, depressive inclinations, anxiety, underachievement and aggressive behaviors. This study aimed to investigate the various conflict dimensions related to children's adjustment problems in regard to their parental attitudes and gender. The results of the study may have some positive effects to prepare parental training programs directed to parents which have important roles in children's affective, social and educational developments. Specifically the results of present study will lead to determine parents' educational needs and to prepare the educational programs appropriate to these needs. Besides, it is expected that the results of the study will have effects on preparing school guidance and psychological counseling programs aimed to help the children's adjustment to school, family, and other social environments, related to psycho-social-educational development.

The purpose of this study was to examine children's perceptions of interparental conflict according to parental attitudes and gender. 330 (180 female and 150 male) students from 3 elementary schools at the Antalya (in Turkey) participated in this study. The Children's Perceptions of Interparental Conflict Scale (Ulu & Fıfılođlu, 2004) and the Parental Attitude Scale for Children (Polat, 1986) were used while collecting data. The results of this study showed that children of the parents who have democratic attitude has lover scores from "the self-blame" and "the threat scale" subscales and got higher scores from "the conflict properties" subscale from children of the parents who have authority attitude. These findings supported the theoretical ideas. The results indicated that there was no significant difference between the scores of male and female students' perceptions of interparental conflict scale. These results were discussed in the light of the existing literature and suggestions were made for future research.

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