

## **Abstract**

Experiences of childhood trauma can lead individuals to inculcate negative cognitive styles or schemas about their self, the others and the world. These schemas, which are developed or internalized in early stages of life, underlie various psychological problems and negatively affect personality in Adolescents and pre adulthood in the form personality disorders. The aim of the present study is to examine the mediating role of early maladaptive schemas in the relationship between childhood traumatic experiences and personality dysfunction. For this purpose, Child Traumatic Events Scale, Schema Mode Inventory and Brief Personality Diagnostic Questionnaire to collect data on their demographic characteristics were administered to 600 university students whose ages are 16-30. The results of the analyses showed that childhood traumatic experiences were significantly related to Borderline personality disorder, Schizotypal, Antisocial and Obsessive compulsive disorder and schema domains of Angry Child, Vulnerable Child, Detached Protector and Punitive Parent fully mediated this relationship. Childhood abuse experiences, regardless of the type of these experiences, may lead to being developed early maladaptive schemas in schema domains of Child Mode, Dysfunctional Coping Mode and Parent Mode and these schema domains may be significant cognitive risk factor for personality dysfunction in Adolescents and Pre Adults. This study will be beneficial to parents in getting insight and developing safer home environment as well as educationists and clinicians to seek genesis of personality disorders.

**Key words:** childhood trauma, maladaptive schemas, personality disorders, adolescents, pre adults, parents