

Abstract

The current study was aimed to investigate the relationship between rejection sensitivity, cognitive emotion regulation, internalizing and externalizing psychopathology in destitute children. For this purpose, the sample size was composed of 100 children (48 boys and 52 girls) with the age range of 12-18 years $M (SD)=14.68 (1.49)$. A cross-sectional research design was used and data was collected from Child Protection and Welfare Bureau, Edhi Centre and Daarul-Shafqat. Rejection Sensitivity Questionnaire (RSQ) (Feldman & Downey, 1994), Cognitive Emotion Regulation (CER) (Garnefski & Kraaij, 2007) and Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) (Achenbach, M. T, 2001) were administered to measure rejection sensitivity, regulation of emotions and internalizing and externalizing behaviors in children. Psychometric properties of measures were also determined like reliability analysis and Cronbach's Alpha of RSQ is $\alpha=.93$ and CER is $\alpha=.89$ and CBCL is $\alpha=.88$ which considered to be significantly reliable for the study. Results indicated that there was a positive correlation among rejection sensitivity, cognitive emotion regulation and internalizing and externalizing psychopathology. Regression analysis indicated that there was a significant predictive relationship between ✓ anxious rejection and externalizing psychopathology. Further analysis of variances stated that anger rejection was a predictor of internalizing psychopathology. Moreover it was concluded that girls were more prone towards internalizing psychopathology and boys were more likely to exhibit externalizing psychopathology. The future implications of the study states that management strategies will be beneficial to manage externalize and internalize behaviors in destitute children.

Keywords: Destitute children, Rejection sensitivity, Emotion regulation, Psychopathology