

Abstract

The present study explored the role of parental attachment on morality, personality traits, and psychological well-being among young adults residing in Pakistan (PK) and the United Kingdom (UK). Despite existing research on parental attachment and its influence on various psychological outcomes, there is a scarcity of cross-cultural studies comparing the effects in different cultural contexts, particularly in PK and UK. Additionally, previous work has often used lengthy assessment instruments that may not be fully suitable for specific cultural populations. Thus, a need arises for shorter, culturally adapted measures for accurate cross-cultural comparisons. Current study investigates the impact of parental attachment on morality, personality traits, and psychological well-being in young adults from PK and the UK. The research is divided into two studies. In Study I, psychometric analysis and adaptation of five instruments for the Muslim population was carried out, which included the Parental Attachment Scale (Kenny, 1990a), Moral Foundations Questionnaire (Graham et al., 2011), International Personality Item Pool Inventory (Goldberg, 1990), Dark Tetrad of Personality (Paulhus et al., 2021), and Structure of Psychological Well-being (Ryff & Keyes, 1995). A sample of 151 male and 217 female ($N = 370$) young adults from PK were employed in an exploratory factor analysis that validated the instruments, establishing cross-cultural comparability with UK samples. In Study II, confirmatory factor analysis was carried out, confirming the reliability and validity of the culturally adaptive scales. Structural Equation Modeling examined the relationships between parental attachment, morality, personality traits, and well-being in PK and UK samples. Results indicated a significant association between parental attachment (maternal and paternal) and morality, personality traits, dark personality traits, and psychological well-being in both cultures. Affective Quality of Attachment positively correlated with morality and conventional personality traits, while it is negatively correlated with dark personality traits in both cultures.

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Autonomy/Independence showed varying associations, while Parents Providing Emotional Support correlated positively with all measured aspects. Furthermore, findings revealed moderated effects of parental attachment and demographics/control variables on the relationships studied. Additionally, multi-group modeling analysis demonstrated cross-cultural differences in parental attachment's impact on morality, personality traits, and psychological well-being. The implications of this research shed light on the significance of parental attachment in shaping moral development, personality traits, and well-being in young adults in two diverse cultural contexts. Moreover, this study addresses the research gap by using shorter, culturally adapted instruments that enhance the comparability of results across different cultural backgrounds. These findings contribute to the existing literature in psychological testing, clinical, developmental, educational, social, and positive psychology.

Keywords: parental attachment, morality, personality traits, psychological wellbeing and young adults