

## **ABSTRACT**

A correlational research was conducted to investigate the role of maternal stress and behavior problems of their children as determinants of parenting practices. It was hypothesized that mothers of ADHD children would show high level of stress. Child behavioral problems and stress would affect their parenting practices. A purposive sample of 60 children with age range 4-12 years ( $M = 7.7$ ,  $SD = 3.23$ ) was selected for the current study. Thirty children suspected of ADHD were drawn from different schools of government and private sectors in Lahore, whose diagnosis was confirmed through DSM-IV TR criteria and Conners' Parent Rating Scale (Conners, 1997). Moreover 30 children diagnosed with ADHD were taken from child Psychiatry units of 4 hospitals in Lahore. Mother of these children after giving informed consent participated in the study. Their age range from 24-40 years ( $M = 31$ ,  $SD = 7.74$ ). They initially rated the severity of their child's behavioral problems on Child Behavior Checklist (Achenbach & Edelbrock, 1991). The mothers were administered Parenting Stress Index (Abidin, 1995) and Parent Questionnaire, (Doyle & McCarthey, 2002) to report their own stress level and parenting practices. PSI and PQ were translated into Urdu by using standardized back translation method, Cronbach alpha coefficient for Urdu versions of PSI and PQ was computed to determine their reliability ( $\alpha = .87$  &  $\alpha = .73$ ,  $p < .0001$ ). The result indicated positive correlation between child behavior problems, maternal stress and parenting practices. Child's externalizing behavior was positively correlated with maternal stress and harsh/physical discipline; it was negatively correlated with appropriate/consistent discipline. Mothers from low SES, larger families and less educational background reported high level of stress and more harsh parenting and more behavior problems in their children.