

## **ABSTRACT**

The present study investigated the relationship of parental stress, parenting practices in relation to behavioral problems in intellectually disable children. Sample comprised 60 intellectually disable children with the age range 12-15 years ( $M= 13.30$ ,  $SD= 1.19$ ). Fathers and mothers of these children comprised the second segment of sample. The data were collected from 3 institutes of intellectually disable children The Rising Sun, Amin Maktab and Children's Hospital Lahore. The assumption was mild to severely retarded/ disable children will show different level and types of behavioral problems and these will be related to parental stress and practices. Gender differences and socioeconomic class difference were also assumed to play an important role. Developmental Behavior Problem Checklist (Einfeld & Tonge, 1995) measured behavioral problems in intellectually disable children. Urdu version of Parenting Stress Index (Abidin, 1997) and Parenting Practices Questionnaire (Anjum & Malik, 2007) were used to measure the parenting stress and practices. The results indicated that intellectual level of the child as the primary predictor of their behavioral problems. Autistic, Anxiety and Disruptive behaviors of children contributed in parenting stress. Parenting stress was strongly related to gender of the parents; mothers were more stressed as compared to fathers. Both parents showed slightly different parenting styles towards children which were determined by their stress level. for fathers and mothers. Mothers Parenting stress was strongly related with child's gender as mothers were more stressed than fathers. Both parents' slightly different parenting styles towards children which were determined by their stress level. Parental stress and styles were largely determined by the level of retardation and behavioral problems of children. The findings have been discussed in peculiar social context of Pakistani society which have the implications for the parents/ caregivers and service providers to intellectually disable children.