



Characteristics of Mother and Child Relationships in The Family

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Abstract: This article describes the characteristics of the relationship between mother and child, the problems that arise in this relationship, the wrong forms of education and their impact on the child's development.

Keywords: Mother, child, personality, interaction, education, wrong forms of education, hyperprotection, hypoprotection, emotional rejection.

Introduction: The issue of the relationship between mother and children has long been one of the most pressing problems in the development of human society. This is because the life experience, knowledge, skills, and competencies gained by humanity are passed down from generation to generation precisely through this system of relationships — the mother-child relationship.

Situations arising in mother-child relationships are never identical. Any new issue in upbringing requires a new approach. Therefore, it is essential to anticipate various problematic situations in mother-child relationships and find reasonable solutions to them. The hardships experienced by some women in their youth or childhood may later form the basis for their development into problematic mothers, which in turn can affect their relationships with their children and lead to problematic situations.

METHOD

Many researchers have addressed the topic of mother-child relationships [2,3,4,6]. Some researchers have identified that the use of incorrect parenting styles by mothers negatively impacts the child's development as a person [3,6]. Problems in mother-child relationships arise precisely from the application of such inappropriate parenting methods by mothers and

negatively affect these relationships.

A.Ye. Lichko identified the following types of incorrect parenting:

Hypoprotection (lack of support and protection): characterized by insufficient attention to the child, lack of care and control, disinterest in what the child is engaged in, and unmet needs of the child.

A vivid manifestation of emotional neglect. Emotional humiliation of the child can be likened to the relationship of the stepmother to Zumrad in the fairy tale "Zumrad and Qimmat." In this case, the mother pays no attention to the child, does not care for or supervise them, leading the child to experience emotional humiliation, which forms the basis for the emergence of negative personality traits.

Absolute hypoprotection (complete abandonment): the child's needs are not met, and their actions are not controlled. No attention is paid to the child's needs for food, clothing, or rest.

Hidden hypoprotection: the mother shows superficial care for the child, resulting in very low levels of support. The mother appears to care, but in reality only meets basic needs, without genuine emotional involvement. There is no cooperation in joint activities or communication. Demands are made, but their fulfillment is not monitored.

Permissive hypoprotection is characterized by excessive leniency, allowing the child to do whatever they want without proper emotional acceptance. How should this be understood? Since the mother tries to fulfill every whim of the child, the child becomes overly spoiled. Parents buy expensive items to distance themselves from the child, avoiding communication and interaction. For example, they might send the child to the best summer camp for the entire summer. Such parents tend to treat the child coldly, avoiding physical affection like hugging or kissing. They do not allow the child to form close relationships with others and try to isolate them. Because they are unable to show genuine love, they may feel guilty.

Hyperprotection — an excessive level of attention and care from the parents toward the child, to the extent that parenting becomes the central meaning and goal of their lives. The mother shows extreme care and support, strives to fulfill all the child's wishes and needs without criticism or analysis, protects them from any difficulties, pampers them, and overlooks their mistakes. These mothers, without realizing it, end up harming their children. As a result, the child grows up weak-willed, socially awkward, and emotionally fragile, often becoming capricious and spoiled. Particularly during adolescence, such children tend to seek

dominance in peer groups, wanting things to go their way, despite lacking the necessary qualities. The root of the issue is that the mother tries to realize her own unfulfilled dreams through her child, and her parenting style is directed at this goal. However, the child eventually begins to feel inadequate when faced with real-life social challenges [1].

Hyperprotection Prevailing Over Care — in this case, instead of showing affection, the mother pays attention to the child by constantly controlling every step and behavior. Therefore, this parenting style involves numerous prohibitions and restrictions. A child raised in such an environment typically cannot develop independent thinking or make independent decisions. However, they often grow up irritable and dissatisfied because they are used to constant control and to having everything dictated to them. Such a child becomes someone who cannot do homework without their mother, or go outside without their father, and gets accustomed to adult intervention in every aspect of life.

Excessive Moral Responsibility — this style consists of placing excessive demands on the child. These demands often do not align with the child's age or individual characteristics. At the same time, the child's wishes and needs are ignored. Children raised in this manner tend to have an overly high sense of moral responsibility but are also usually nervous and anxious. This parenting style is often observed in single mothers.

Emotional Rejection — in this case, parents raise the child in a way that constantly reminds them they are a burden or an unnecessary concern, and that life would have been different without them. If the child is not the only one in the family and there is another sibling who is more favored, the situation worsens. Remarks like "If only you weren't born..." or, addressed to a girl, "If only you were a boy..." are frequently heard.

Some parents try to hide their emotional rejection of the child. When asked, "Why don't you like your child?" they insist that they do love them and that the child is needed. Nevertheless, the child still feels like a burden and lives with this emotional weight, often desiring to become independent and live separately as soon as possible. No matter how much the mother tries to display artificial affection, the child senses the lack of sincerity. This is especially painful in cases where the father has left or the parents are divorced.

Harshness — at first glance, this resembles emotional rejection but is even more explicit and severe. Harshness may involve physical punishment, verbal abuse, humiliation, or complete indifference to the child's needs and even their presence. In both cases, the child grows up thinking only about becoming an adult quickly, surviving independently, and escaping parental

pressure. In such families, punishment for various behaviors becomes routine. The child obeys out of fear, and adults often fail to recognize or ignore the long-term psychological consequences. The principles of guilt and punishment become central psychological tools for controlling the child's behavior, leading them to constantly seek someone to blame in adulthood. [1]

In addition, the following disproportionate types of mother–child relationships can be distinguished:

1. The mother treats her son as a substitute for someone else. In this case, the mother perceives her son as her assistant and imposes various responsibilities, duties, and concerns on him. He is assigned the role of the head of the family and is expected to care for his mother. This situation is observed not only in single-parent families but also in two-parent families. In a full family, if the mother feels that her husband is not adequately fulfilling his paternal responsibilities, or if the father thinks the mother is failing in her maternal duties, such a dynamic may emerge in the treatment of the child.

2. The mother's symbiotic relationship with the child. Here, the mother perceives herself and the child as a single, inseparable whole. This type of relationship, when continued into adolescence, hinders the child's ability to establish relationships with peers and gain social independence.

3. Deprivation of parental affection. In this case, the child does not consistently receive parental affection. The child is only shown love as a reward—when they behave well, achieve something, or meet certain expectations. Thus, the child learns that to be worthy of love, they must always be a “good child.”

4. Constant blaming of the child. This type of relationship fosters a persistent sense of guilt in the child. It negatively affects the child's personal development and leads to low self-esteem and a tendency to perceive themselves as inherently bad or unworthy.

It is evident that the aforementioned inappropriate parenting styles negatively affect the child's development as a personality. For a mother, it is crucial to correctly interpret her child's behavior during the upbringing process. Misinterpretation of a child's actions can deepen existing problems rather than resolve them.

It is well known that in interpersonal conflicts, each party tends to view themselves as being right. Similarly, in mother–child relationships, when problematic or conflictual situations arise, it is natural for the mother to believe her parenting approach is justified, just as the child perceives their own position

as valid. Therefore, in such situations, the mother must learn to consider the problem not only from her own perspective but also from that of the child. This requires the ability to sense the child's emotional state, understand the reasons behind their behavior and actions, and evaluate them adequately.

This, in turn, encourages mothers to sometimes view events and circumstances from their child's perspective, to put themselves in their child's place, and to make an effort to understand them. Such an approach enhances constructiveness in the mother–child relationship system. Most importantly, increasing congruence and mutual adequacy in their perceptions of one another fosters greater understanding, acceptance, and a willingness to engage meaningfully with each other.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, one of the effective ways to improve mother–child relationships is to strengthen harmony and alignment in their mutual understanding of interactional processes. Encouraging mothers to develop a clear awareness of their individual parenting style, to try perceiving various situations from their child's point of view, and to engage in critical self-reflection as a mother can significantly enhance the constructiveness of interaction within the “mother–child” system.

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