



Exploring The Relationship Between Childhood Emotional Trauma and Socio-Sexual Behavior Among Young Adults

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ABSTRACT

The tendency to engage in socio-sexual behavior in young adults is significantly influenced by childhood experiences. The current paper aimed to explore the relationship between socio-sexual behavior with childhood trauma in young adults aged 18-25. The study objectives included

finding emotional neglect and abuse's impact on an individual's potential to pursue sociosexual behavior because of their childhood. 201 young adults were employed through convenience sampling, stratified sampling, and snowball sampling within the specified age range. The data was collected with the help of the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire's subscales pertaining to emotional abuse and neglect along with the revised sociosexual orientation inventory (SOI-R). Quantitative analysis, encompassing correlation, and t-tests, was conducted using the SPSS, with the results showing significant gender variations in childhood trauma's influence on sociosexual behavior. The findings help in forming a holistic picture of emotional trauma and socio-sexual behavior and highlight the need for further research to explore the complex interplay between childhood emotional trauma, gender, and socio-sexual behavior.

Keywords: *Childhood Emotional Trauma, Socio-Sexual Behavior, Young Adults*

INTRODUCTION

Childhood trauma encompasses the experience of emotionally distressing events by a child, leading to lasting and significant effects on their physical and mental health. This issue has become a substantial worldwide public health concern with widespread implications. Childhood maltreatment and abuse represent distinct manifestations of childhood trauma, wherein caregivers deliberately cause harm or fail to provide adequate care, resulting in detrimental effects on overall well-being.

Child maltreatment is roughly defined as any kind of exploitation which has the capability of detrimentally impacting normal development. This is a widespread problem with lasting and deep-seated consequences. However, it presents a complex and challenging subject for research.

The prevalence of child maltreatment varies significantly based on factors such as

a) the definitions used, b) the specific type of maltreatment under study, c) the reliability and scope of official statistics, and d) self-reported survey data obtained from victims, parents, or caregivers.

Child abuse has endured over time as a significant societal issue, especially with limited awareness in developing nations. In certain instances, disciplinary measures taken by parents can result in lasting emotional wounds during childhood, ultimately hindering their cognitive and social development. India, home to the largest global population of children, faces a pervasive and escalating problem of child abuse, with recent statistics indicating that over 90% of Indian children experience some form of abuse before turning 18. This alarming situation highlights the critical necessity for immediate attention and action.

The data suggests that a substantial number of Indian children encounter different types of abuse and neglect. As per the statistics, up to 74% report physical abuse, with similar amounts reporting other kinds of abuse like emotional and sexual. These figures raise alarming concerns. Adverse experiences in early life, particularly childhood maltreatment, have consistently been linked to a heightened likelihood of negative outcomes in various areas. These include health and performance in various domains like social, physical, mental along with impacting the socioeconomic status of an individual.

Childhood maltreatment is a prevalent global issue, with one in four adults reporting instances of physical abuse during their childhood. However, emotional abuse and emotional neglect have received comparatively less societal and research focus in contrast to physical abuse and neglect, as well as sexual abuse. This discrepancy may be attributed, at least in part, to their less visible immediate effects, such as the absence of physical injury or outward signs of abuse, as well as significant regional and cultural differences in defining emotional abuse or neglect.

Now, let's embark on a comprehensive exploration of emotional neglect and emotional abuse, encompassing their definitions, diverse manifestations, and the significant ramifications experienced by individuals who endure these types of maltreatment.

Childhood Emotional Abuse

One of the most common types of abuse is emotional, which is marked by repetitive actions that negatively affect a child's emotional growth and self-esteem. This form of abuse includes actions like withholding love and encouragement, as well as rejecting, criticizing, threatening, demeaning, and humiliating the child, often involving name-calling and insults. Due to its subtle and gradual nature, emotional abuse can be challenging to recognize, gradually undermining the child's confidence and sense of security.

Like other forms of abuse, it revolves around the exertion of power and control over the child through emotionally harmful words and actions. Children subjected to emotional abuse are at risk of enduring long-term consequences, including heightened vulnerability to physical and mental health challenges. There are six recognized types of emotional abuse, some of which are Threatening, Exploiting, Isolating, Rejecting, Ignoring, and Corrupting.

Recent studies by the APA suggest that Childhood emotional abuse has been found to have a noteworthy association with conditions such as depression, anxiety disorders, challenges with attachment, and substance abuse.

This has been proved in a meta-analysis by Hemmingsson et al. (2014) involving 23 cohort studies and 112,708 participants, childhood abuse's effect on obesity in adulthood was explored through four types of abuse: physical, emotional, sexual, and general. The findings indicated a significant correlation between childhood abuse and adult obesity, with severe abuse

demonstrating a stronger association compared to light/moderate abuse. Moreover childhood abuse was seen to have a positive effect on obesity.

Another study conducted by Kuo et al. (2015) with 243 undergraduates aimed to explore the distinct association between emotional abuse experienced during childhood, difficulties in emotional regulation and the strength of symptoms of BPD. The results showed childhood emotional abuse to be severely connected to BPD symptoms, through emotional regulation problems.

The repercussions of child abuse, regardless of its form, can be profound and often endure well into adulthood. Children subjected to abuse may internalize a sense of responsibility for the mistreatment, leading them to believe that they are unloved, unlovable, and unwanted.

This has been explained in a study conducted by Berzenski and Yates (2019) which examined the process by which childhood emotional abuse contributes to violent relationships among college students. The research revealed that emotional abuse was the strongest predictor when it came to relationship violence as compared to other forms of mistreatment. Additionally, the study identified that challenges in emotion regulation partially accounted for this connection, largely attributed to impulsive behaviour. Furthermore, the study investigated the impact of gender and ethnicity.

Childhood Emotional Neglect:

Montina Myers-Galloway, a licensed clinical mental health counselor based in Charlotte, North Carolina, delineates that emotional neglect “encompasses unacknowledged or unattended emotional requirements.”

Emotional neglect is when the needs of a child are left unfulfilled by the parents. It's

important to distinguish emotional neglect from childhood emotional abuse. Abuse typically involves a deliberate and intentional choice to act harmfully.

An instance of emotional neglect is when a child shares excitement about an accomplishment, such as a good grade at school, but the parents show disinterest or fail to acknowledge the child's achievement, leaving the child feeling unnoticed and unappreciated. Another example is when child expresses fear or anxiety about a certain situation, and the parents dismiss these feelings as insignificant, leading the child to believe that their emotions are not valid or worthy of attention.

The effects of neglect on children can be understated, making it difficult for parents to acknowledge their behavior and for caregivers, such as medical professionals and educators, to detect the subtle signs.

Severe cases of emotional neglect are more conspicuous and tend to receive greater attention, while milder instances may go unnoticed. Recognizing the symptoms of emotional neglect in children is crucial for facilitating the necessary support for both the child and the parents. Childhood emotional neglect from caregivers can appear in diverse manners, such as:

Absence of emotional support: Caregivers may demonstrate emotional aloofness, inattentiveness, or emotional unavailability, creating difficulties for children to form an emotional bond with them.

Ignoring or dismissing feelings: Caregivers who emotionally neglect children may disregard, downplay, or minimize their emotions, advising them to "stop crying" or "be tougher" when they express their feelings.

The impact of emotional neglect on individuals can be seen in a meta-analysis conducted by Pignatelli et al. (2017) which aimed at investigating into individual's eating disorders and the

prevalence of childhood emotional neglect and physical neglect. The findings indicated that among individuals with EDs, approximately 53.3% reported experiencing childhood emotional neglect, while 45.4% reported experiencing childhood physical neglect.

Additionally, Mwakanyamale et al. (2022) conducted a study to understand the effect of emotional neglect in childhood on psychological distress in adolescents. The study included 3193 participants, with 48.3% being male and 51.7% female, aged between 13 to 18 years old. Findings revealed that 51.9% of participants reported childhood emotional neglect, and the two variables showed a strong positive correlation.

The Impact Of Early Childhood Experiences On Adult Relationships

Below are several theories that discuss the impact of early childhood experiences on adult relationships.

Attachment Theory: According to attachment theory, developed by John Bowlby, early childhood experiences with caregivers can significantly influence adult relationships and behaviors. Individuals who experienced inconsistent, neglectful, or abusive caregiving in childhood are at the risk of forming insecure styles of attachment which may inevitably lead to a negative impact on future relationships. In the context of casual sex, individuals with insecure attachment styles may seek out brief, non-committal encounters to fulfill their unmet emotional needs or to avoid intimacy and vulnerability.

Psychodynamic Theory: Psychodynamic theory, particularly as proposed by Sigmund Freud and later theorists, explores the influence of early childhood experiences on adult personality and behavior. Childhood emotional trauma may lead to the internalization of unresolved conflicts, emotional distress, and unconscious relational patterns that can manifest in sociosexual behavior.

Trauma theory: This seeks to understand the formation of maladaptive coping mechanisms and dysregulation because of emotional traumatic experiences.

Socio sexuality

Socio sexuality, as conceptualized by Simpson and Gangestad in 1991, pertains to an individual's proclivity for engaging in non-committal sexual relationships, encompassing differences in attitudes, behaviors, and desires related to sexual activity outside of committed relationships.

This inclination is shaped by cultural and social norms, personal experiences, and evolutionary factors, offering valuable insights into human mating strategies, sexual behaviors, and relationship dynamics. Understanding socio sexuality is fundamental for comprehending the complexities of human mating strategies, relationship dynamics, and societal norms concerning sexual behavior.

While initially viewed as unidimensional, contemporary literature increasingly supports a three-dimensional model of socio sexuality, incorporating behavior, attitudes, and desires. This tridimensional framework facilitates a comprehensive understanding of socio sexuality, considering individuals' willingness to engage in non-committal sexual encounters.

The phase of young adulthood, typically ranging from the late teens to the early thirties, represents a crucial period of personal growth and development in the context of relationships.

This stage is characterized by the exploration of diverse relationship types, from casual dating to more serious commitments, as individuals seek to understand their preferences, values, and boundaries within intimate relationships. Effective communication skills become pivotal in navigating romantic relationships, as individuals learn to articulate their needs, establish

boundaries, and comprehend the importance of consent.

Moreover, peer dynamics, family influence, societal expectations, and cultural norms significantly shape how young adults perceive and engage in relationships, contributing to the varied experiences during this life stage. Young adulthood represents a crucial phase of sociosexual development, marked by the exploration of diverse relationships and sexual experiences, influenced by factors such as peer dynamics, cultural norms, and technological advancements.

Peer pressure and influence often impact the choices regarding relationships and sexual behaviors, while the exploration of sexual orientation, preferences, and identity contributes to the diverse spectrum of sexual behaviors and experiences during this life stage. The prevalence of social media and dating apps has revolutionized how young adults form and maintain relationships, introducing new dimensions to sociosexual behavior and impacting norms and practices related to dating and sexual interactions. Additionally, cultural, and societal norms contribute to the diversity of sociosexual behaviors in young adulthood, reflected in attitudes towards premarital sex, cohabitation, and sexual orientation, which are influenced by cultural and societal values. Rodrigues and Lopes (2017) conducted two studies involving heterosexual individuals. Study 1 included 566 participants with an average age of 21, while Study 2 involved 168 participants with an average age of 23. The studies explored the correlation of socio sexuality with commitment. The findings replicated previous results, indicating men to be freer in this regard as compared to women, with single individuals exhibiting the same result.

Relationship Between Emotional Trauma and Sociosexual Behavior

The relationship between emotional trauma and sociosexual behavior is explainable by

several theories that delve into the intricate connections between these two phenomena. These theories provide frameworks for understanding how early experiences of emotional trauma can significantly influence adult intimate relationships and sociosexual behaviors.

Evolutionary Theory and Parental Investment: According to evolutionary theory, sociosexual behavior is impacted by evolutionary forces. The parental investment theory, formulated by Robert Trivers in 1972, is a component of the evolutionary theory. This theory posits a correlation between the extent of parental investment and the selectivity of individuals in choosing mates. Due to biological variations in parental investment, the theory suggests that, on average: Men, with lower investment, may exhibit greater openness to short-term mating opportunities. Women, with higher investment, may demonstrate more selectivity in partner choice, prioritizing characteristics indicative of good fathers and long-term commitment.

The theory of Social Exchange Theory: This defines that individuals partake in social interactions, including sexual relationships, based on a rational assessment of costs and benefits. In the realm of sociosexual behavior, individuals may seek partners who offer desirable traits or resources, such as physical attractiveness or wealth, in exchange for companionship, emotional support, or other advantages.

Attachment Theory: Attachment theory suggests that the quality of early attachment experiences with caregiver's molds individuals' interpersonal relationships, encompassing romantic and sexual relationships, throughout their lives. According to this theory, people develop internal working models of relationships derived from their early attachment experiences, which then impact their sociosexual behavior, including their tendencies towards intimacy, trust, and commitment.

The relationship of the two was also shown in a comprehensive review of literature conducted by Riggs (2019) which aimed to investigate the development and progression of attachment systems beginning from infancy to adulthood. The paper sought to explore variations from the normative developmental paths resulting from emotionally detrimental parenting behaviours, such as intense rejection, controlling conduct, hostile demeanour, or actions inducing fear. The study presents a theoretical framework based on attachment theory, outlining the emergence of dysfunctional interaction patterns in adult relationships and proposes the capability of emotional abuse to lead to an insecure attachment style as a result of faulty emotional regulation and a distorted self and others perception. Furthermore, it is suggested that this progression hinders social functioning and the ability to form intimate adult relationships, ultimately influencing mental well-being and shaping the dynamics of romantic relationships.

Additionally, Zi-Yu Wang et al. (2019) conducted an analysis to explore the childhood maltreatment's influence, on risky sexual behaviours among adolescents and adults. The meta-analysis revealed significant associations between childhood maltreatment and various RSBs, like early sexual debut and unprotected sex. Additionally, the analysis found that childhood maltreatment was often linked to higher chance of engaging in RSBs.

METHODOLOGY

Aim

This research paper was done to explore whether there is a correlation of emotional trauma in childhood with socio-sexual behavior in young adults aged 18-25, utilizing Childhood Trauma Questionnaire- Short Form (CTQ-SF)'s subscales of emotional abuse and neglect, The revised

sociosexual orientation inventory (SOI-R).

Hypothesis

- Hypothesis 1: There is a significant correlation between childhood emotional trauma and socio-sexual behavior in young adults aged 18-25.
- Hypothesis 2: There is no significant correlation between childhood emotional trauma and socio-sexual behavior in young adults aged 18-25.
- Hypothesis 3: Males will exhibit an increased rates of such behavior compared to females, even in the absence of childhood emotional trauma.

Description of Sample

Sample size of 201 participants was employed through convenience sampling, stratified sampling, and snowball sampling to explore the correlation between emotional trauma in childhood and socio-sexual behavior in young adults. The sample was divided evenly, comprising 101 females and 100 males. To gather data for the study, online platforms were used to share the google form of the scales so that the participants were able to provide responses to the questionnaire in a convenient and accessible online format.

Description of the Tools

- **Childhood trauma Questionnaire**

The Childhood Trauma Questionnaire—Short Form (CTQ-SF) comprises 70 items which the participants need to score on a 5-point Likert scale to measure the severity of various

forms of abuse and neglect in childhood. Following further analyses, Bernstein et al. (2003) reduced the questionnaire to 28 items. Each abuse and neglect subscale contains five items, with the emotional abuse (EA) subscale focusing on verbal abuse, humiliations, and harassments that affect the child's self-esteem, and the emotional neglect (EN) subscale addressing the failure of parents or guardians to meet the child's emotional and psychological needs. The Childhood Trauma Questionnaire-Short Form (CTQ-SF) is widely accepted and reliable for obtaining consistent and valid self-reports on childhood maltreatment from individuals aged 14 and above.

- **Sociosexual Orientation Inventory**

The Sociosexual Orientation Inventory (SOI-R) is a 9-item self-report questionnaire with a 5-point rating scale designed to measure individual's differences in the tendency to have casual, uncommitted sexual relationships. This orientation is segmented into three facets. measured by the inventory: behavior (in terms of number of casual and changing sex partners), attitude (towards uncommitted sex) and desire (for people not in a romantic relationship) each represented by three items within the inventory.

The scale options for the Behavior items range from "0" to "8 or more," coded as 1 to 5, while the Attitude items utilize a 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) scale, and the Desire item employs a scale ranging from "never" to "nearly every day," also coded as 1 to 5. In a large, heterogeneous online sample ($N = 8,549$), the SOI-R with five response alternatives per item achieved good internal consistencies (.83, .81, .82, and .85 for the total score and the facets Behavior, Attitude, and Desire, respectively). The research carried out in Colombia involving a substantial number of participants demonstrated that the SOI-R is a valid and dependable tool for evaluating socio sexuality in regions where socio sexuality research is limited.

PROCEDURE

For this research study, participants were recruited using targeted strategies across various online platforms, social media channels, and community forums. These recruitment methods aimed to reach a diverse range of individuals who might be interested in participating in the study. Before participating, every potential participant received comprehensive information about the study's objectives, processes, and possible risks and benefits.

Subsequently, informed consent was obtained from each participant, ensuring their understanding of their rights as participants and their voluntary agreement to take part. Upon providing consent, participants were directed to a survey hosted on Google Forms. The survey was meticulously designed to gather essential demographic information from participants, such as their age, gender, and any other relevant background details. Additionally, the survey included the administration of the subscales along with the revised sociosexual orientation inventory (SOI-R). The emotional abuse and neglect subscales of CTQ-SF consisted of 5 multiple-choice questions, each presenting participants with five response options. These questions cover the dimensions of emotional neglect and emotional abuse within the family environment.

Participants were instructed to select the response that best describes the frequency with which you experienced or observed the described situation during your childhood. And the SOI-R consisted of 9 multiple-choice questions, each presenting participants with five response options. These questions cover various aspects of sexual behavior, attitudes, and fantasies.

By utilizing Google Forms for data collection, the study ensured efficient and secure handling of participant responses. This online platform facilitated the administration of the survey and enabled researchers to easily compile and analyze the collected data. Furthermore, the anonymity of respondents was preserved throughout the survey process, safeguarding their privacy.

and confidentiality.

Overall, this recruitment and data collection procedure aimed to gather valuable insights into the correlation between emotional trauma in childhood and socio-sexual behavior in young adults. By employing rigorous methodologies and ethical considerations, the research sought to contribute to the understanding of the impact of childhood emotional trauma on socio-sexual behavior in young adults and inform potential interventions and support services for those affected by these experiences.

Data Analysis

All calculations were conducted using SPSS 27.0. To assess whether there were significant differences in sociosexual and trauma scores between males and females, an independent samples t-test was utilized. Additionally, correlation between the Emotional Abuse, Emotional Neglect and the SOI- R scores was calculated using Spearman's rho due to its nonparametric nature.

RESULTS

Sample Characteristics

The sample taken for this study ranged between the ages 18-25. The mean EA score for males was 9.30 (SD $\pm$ 3.74) and the same for females was 11.26 (SD $\pm$ 5.47). The mean EN score for males was 9.55 (SD $\pm$ 4.09) and the same for females was 9.93 (SD $\pm$ 4.86). The mean score for the combined EA and EN subscales for males, thus came out to be 18.85 (SD $\pm$ 6.77), while the same for females was 21.19 (SD $\pm$ 9.34). When considering the SOI-R score for males, the mean score was 22.15 (SD $\pm$ 8.14), and that for females was 15.20 (SD $\pm$ 5.12).

Difference in EA, EN, cumulative scale and SOI-R levels. The independent samples t-test was used to examine for substantial variances. At $\alpha = .05$, the null and alternative hypotheses were as follows:

H₀ = males and females scores had no significant differences. H-1 = males and females scores had significant differences

Table 1 shows the p-value for the before mentioned variables for males and females. It is seen that there is a significant difference in EA scores, cumulative EA and EN scores and SOI-R scores of males and females, with females recording higher scores for EA and the combined EA and EN scale. Males, however, recorded higher scores for SOI-R.

Table 1

Independent samples t-test

		t	Sigg. (2-tailed)
	Equal variances not assumed	-2.961	0.003
Emotional abuse			
	Equal variances not assumed	-0.601	0.549
Emotional neglect			
Cumulative scale of EA and EN	Equal variances not assumed	-2.033	0.043
	Equal variances not assumed	7.233	0.000
SOI-R			

Correlation

Table 2 shows the correlation coefficients obtained using Spearman's rho. It can be observed that

only EN showed a weak correlation with SOI-R scores, with the combined EA and EN scale showing only a very weak correlation. **Table 3** shows the correlation coefficient for all the subscales based on gender. EN scores in males show a significant correlation with SOI-R ($r = .220$, $p = .028$), with EA showing a very weak correlation whereas in females, EA and EN show only weak correlations with SOI- R.

			Emotional Abuse	Emotional Neglect	CTQ Sum	Socio sexual Sum
Spearman's rho	Emotional Abuse	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.584**	.875**	0.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)		0.000	0.000	0.994
		N	201	201	201	201
	Emotional Neglect	Correlation Coefficient	.584**	1.000	.893**	0.137
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000		0.000	0.053
		N	201	201	201	201
	CTQ Sum	Correlation Coefficient	.875**	.893**	1.000	0.081
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	0.000		0.252
		N	201	201	201	201
	Socio sexual Sum	Correlation Coefficient	0.000	0.137	0.081	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.994	0.053	0.252	
		N	201	201	201	201
** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).						

			EA Male	EA Female	EN Male	EN Female	SOI Male	SOI Female
Spearman's rho	EA Male	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	-0.094	.503**	-0.183	0.092	-0.137
		Sig. (2-tailed)		0.350	0.000	0.068	0.362	0.175
		N	100	100	100	100	100	100
	EA Female	Correlation Coefficient	-0.094	1.000	-0.078	.658**	-0.055	0.100
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.350		0.438	0.000	0.587	0.319
		N	100	101	100	101	100	101
	EN Male	Correlation Coefficient	.503**	-0.078	1.000	-0.127	.220*	-0.167
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	0.438		0.206	0.028	0.098
		N	100	100	100	100	100	100
	EN Female	Correlation Coefficient	-0.183	.658**	-0.127	1.000	-0.027	0.149
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.068	0.000	0.206		0.787	0.138
		N	100	101	100	101	100	101
	SOI Male	Correlation Coefficient	0.092	-0.055	.220*	-0.027	1.000	0.172
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.362	0.587	0.028	0.787		0.087
		N	100	100	100	100	100	100
	SOI Female	Correlation Coefficient	-0.137	0.100	-0.167	0.149	0.172	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.175	0.319	0.098	0.138	0.087	
		N	100	101	100	101	100	101
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).								
* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).								

DISCUSSION

This research paper aimed to investigate and establish a correlation between the scores of emotional traumas in childhood and socio-sexual behavior in young adults aged 18-25 by making use of the emotional abuse and emotional neglect subscale of Childhood Trauma Questionnaire- Short Form (CTQ-SF), The revised sociosexual orientation inventory (SOI-R).

Additionally, it aimed to establish whether there is any significant difference in the level of emotional trauma experienced by males and females in childhood.

To assess the degree of parental or guardian neglect in meeting the child's fundamental emotional and psychological needs, the study utilized the emotional neglect subscale of CTQ-SF. Additionally, the study employed the SOI-R to gauge individual differences in the inclination to engage in casual, uncommitted sexual relationships. The sample size used for the study was 201 participants. The sample was divided evenly, comprising 101 females and 100 males. Zi-Yu Wang et al. (2019) conducted an analysis to explore the childhood maltreatment's influence, on risky sexual behaviors among adolescents and adults. The meta-analysis revealed significant associations between childhood maltreatment and various RSBs, like early sexual debut and unprotected sex. Additionally, the analysis found that childhood maltreatment was often linked to a higher chance of engaging in RSBs.

This study analyzed the sociosexual and childhood emotional trauma scores between males and females using independent samples t-test. Additionally, the correlation between the Emotional Abuse, Emotional Neglect, and the SOI-R scores was calculated using Spearman's rho due to its nonparametric nature.

The mean scores of male and female participants across EA, EN, the combined EA and EN scale, and levels of SOI-R were compared using the independent samples t-test. At $\alpha = .05$, the null

and alternative hypotheses were as follows:

H0 = males and females scores had no significant differences. H-1 = males and females scores had significant differences.

The p-values obtained for the variables in question indicate the significance of the differences between males and females for each score. The findings show that males and females have significant differences in their scores across all the scales employed.

There were Significant Differences in Scores where Females recorded significantly higher EA scores compared to males. Females exhibited a significant difference in cumulative EA and EN scores in comparison to males. Males had significantly higher scores for SOI-R compared to females. These findings suggest that in the sample population, females tended to have higher scores for EA and the combined EA and EN scale, while males obtained higher scores for SOI-R.

Moreover, the correlation coefficient for EN with SOI-R scores is observed to be weak, suggesting a limited association between these variables. This implies that the scores for EN do not strongly predict the scores on the SOI-R scale.

The combined EA and EN scale exhibits only a very weak correlation with SOI-R scores. This indicates that the combined scale has a minimal predictive value for the scores on the SOI-R scale.

In males, the EN scores demonstrate a significant correlation with SOI-R scores, denoted by a correlation coefficient of 0.220 and a p-value of 0.028. This indicates a notable relationship between EN scores and SOI-R scores in male participants.

On the other hand, in females, both EA and EN show only weak correlations with SOI-R scores. This suggests a less pronounced relationship between these subscales and SOI-R scores among female participants.

Limitations

The study on the correlation between emotional trauma in childhood and socio-sexual behavior in young adulthood, while informative, has certain limitations that should be acknowledged:

Sample Size and Generalizability: The study's 201-participant sample, evenly distributed between genders, may limit the generalizability of the findings to broader populations. A more extensive and diverse sample could provide more comprehensive insights.

Use of Self-Report Measures: using scales like the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire- Short Form (CTQ-SF) and the revised Sociosexual Orientation Inventory (SOI-R) which are self-report methods may introduce response biases and subjective interpretations, potentially affecting the accuracy of the data.

Recall Bias: Depending on participants' recollections of childhood emotional trauma and socio-sexual behavior may be susceptible to recall bias, as memories of past experiences can be influenced by various factors, potentially impacting the reliability of the reported data.

Future Implications

Preventive measures: Insights from future research can contribute to the creation of preventive strategies designed for individuals who have undergone childhood maltreatment. These strategies may center on addressing the underlying emotional trauma to minimize the risk of engaging in risky sexual behaviors during adolescence and adulthood.

Educational Programs: Findings from upcoming studies can play a role in shaping educational programs within schools, communities, and healthcare settings. Additionally, further

research can inform the development of interventions in policymaking that aim to raise awareness about the influence of childhood maltreatment on sexual behavior.

Additionally, exploratory research on newer therapeutic interventions aimed on addressing childhood experiences can be developed for betterment.

This may contribute to enhancing comprehension of the possible enduring impacts of childhood trauma.

CONCLUSION

The study emphasized on examining the relationship between childhood emotional trauma and socio-sexual behavior among young adults aged 18-25. It utilized the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire-Short Form (CTQ-SF) and the revised Sociosexual Orientation Inventory (SOI-R) to collect data. The findings provide valuable insights into how childhood emotional trauma influences socio-sexual behavior, as well as the variations observed between genders in these aspects. Substantial distinctions were evident in Emotional Abuse (EA), cumulative EA, Emotional Neglect (EN) scores, and SOI-R scores based on gender. Females exhibited higher scores in EA and cumulative EA and EN, whereas males demonstrated higher scores in SOI-R. Correlation analysis unveiled a weak association between EN scores and SOI-R scores, with minimal predictive capability observed for both EN and combined EA and EN scores. Interestingly, among males, EN scores exhibited a notable correlation with SOI-R scores, whereas in females, correlations with both EA and EN were less pronounced.

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