

UDC 159.98

DOI: 10.52534/msu-pp4.2023.57

Nino Kitoshvili*

Postgraduate Student

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

0179, 1 Ilia Chavchavadze Ave., Tbilisi, Georgia

<https://orcid.org/0009-0008-9837-6693>

Marital conflict and adolescent's psycho-social well-being: Mediation and moderation analysis

Article's History:

Received: 20.09.2023

Revised: 04.12.2023

Accepted: 27.12.2023

Suggested Citation:

Kitoshvili, T. (2023). Marital conflict and adolescent's psycho-social well-being: Mediation and moderation analysis. *Scientific Bulletin of Mukachevo State University. Series "Pedagogy and Psychology"*, 9(4), 57-64. doi: 10.52534/msu-pp4.2023.57.

Abstract. The research relevance is determined by the direct impact of marital conflicts on the psycho-emotional state of a child, particularly a teenager. The study aims to identify the variables capable of influencing the relationship between the tendency of marital conflict and the psycho-social well-being of children, and to determine the mediating and moderating role of the identified variables. The study was conducted in several stages. The first stage of the study identified variables capable of influencing the relationship between marital conflict and adolescents' psycho-social well-being. The second stage of the study analysed the mediating and moderating nature of the mentioned variables using a questionnaire. Results emphasize the ability to influence certain aspects of marital relations in Georgian society on various aspects of the lives of its members. The research found that the parents' financial situation, the feeling of their and their children's psycho-social support and the change in the functioning of the parents' family in Georgia derives from the family conflict index and is reflected in the deterioration of the adolescent's psycho-social well-being. As for the parenting style, which did not acquire a mediating and moderating role in the research, it can be related to the cultural peculiarity and defined as the interest of future research. On the one hand, it contributes to the expansion of theoretical knowledge in the field of family psychology, and on the other hand, it provides important information for the use of research results, which is one of the first steps forward for the study of the family and the use of therapeutic purposes

Keywords: family; children; family functioning; parenting styles; psycho-social support

*Corresponding author

INTRODUCTION

Marital relationship is a prerequisite for the changing and developing processes of humanity. It plays a crucial role in the process of sharing values with children, forming their interests, and supporting their socialization. Marital relationship, in turn, determines the level of satisfaction of family members, and therefore, marital conflict reduces the psychosocial well-being of its members, especially adolescent children.

An improved marital relationship significantly influences the well-being of the child (Chakraborty, 2023). Aside from the internal family resources of the family, the state also has to support and aid the family. According to Article 24 of the Code on the Rights of the Child

of Georgia (2019), the parent is obliged to take care of the child and, as necessary, to participate in the child support programs offered by the state. Considering this, the state, according to the law, should create family support services, addressing the individual needs of the child. Currently, the number of family support and prevention programs in Georgia and access to them are limited. Furthermore, the effects of inter-parental conflict on children's well-being are understudied, which may put more and more children's well-being at risk (Gong *et al.*, 2023). Hence, the research relevance is determined by their care and the effectiveness of the planned measures. The study aims to address these challenges. Research suggests that adolescents' diminished



well-being is not unconditionally related to marital conflict, just as marital conflict does not directly reflect adolescent's psycho-social well-being. As J. Zhu *et al.* (2022) and Q. Gong *et al.* (2023) believe, there are variables in this process that disrupt and/or intensify this relationship. Therefore, to prevent the negative consequences of marital conflict and to deal with its harmful consequences, it is necessary to identify the variables capable of this influence and to study them. When searching for variables capable of influencing the relationship between marital conflict and adolescent children's psycho-social conflict, it is necessary to address the relationship between parents (an indicator of conflict) (Alelishvili *et al.*, 2019; Guevara *et al.*, 2021). Finding the probable cause in the research process will make it easier for the family researcher, and the therapist to choose the therapeutic direction and support the psycho-social welfare of the adolescent. The study aims to determine the variables capable of influencing the relationship between the marital conflict rate and the psycho-social well-being of adolescent children, as well as to conduct a moderation and mediation analysis. The study seeks to determine in what cases the relationship between the indicator of the conflict between husband and wife in the family and the well-being of the child changes.

Research statements are:

- An increase in the rate of marital conflict is associated with a decrease in the level of well-being of children. The psycho-social well-being of adolescent children of a family with a high rate of marital conflict is lower than the psycho-social well-being of adolescent children with a low rate of marital conflict.
- The reflection of a high rate of marital conflict on the psycho-social well-being of adolescents depends on the variables capable of influencing the relationship between the rate of marital conflict and the psychosocial well-being of children.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Conflict is an integral part of every family, and it is difficult to define its causes, however, it is necessary to predict and prevent the consequences. In some cases, the family successfully manages to overcome the conflict, yet sometimes the negative reflection of the conflict on the family members becomes unavoidable. Marital conflict and disagreements are a source of stress for children, increasing the risk of developing emotional and behavioural problems (van Dijk *et al.*, 2020).

According to D.H. Olson and Y. Lavee (1989), marital conflict is related to the imbalance between cohesion/tightness and adaptability. Cohesiveness refers to the strength of the bond between family members, and adaptability refers to the family's ability to adapt its structure to the needs of the family. Relationships, roles, and rules adapt to situational and or developmental needs. Imbalance is defined by very high and very low levels of cohesion/tightness and adaptability, when (even by agreement) roles are constantly changing, there is a clear leader and, conversely, neither

roles change nor there is a leader in the family. This imbalance causes discomfort, which becomes a source of conflict, the severity of which determines the change in family functionality; parent-child relationship style; parenting style; and the quality of support, and all this, in turn, affects the well-being of children. Hence, D.H. Olson (2000) notes that maintaining a balanced tension and adaptability between spouses is essential to promote the welfare of the family and its members, which will balance the existing roles and make the decision-making process in the family more flexible. M.E.P. Seligman's (2011) theory of well-being (PERMA) distinguishes five interrelated dimensions of good family relations, including a positive relationship and the potential to reinforce each other. According to the theory (PERMA), well-being is defined as positive emotion; engagement; relationships; a sense of meaning, and accomplishment. Psycho-social well-being in adolescence is determined by many factors, however, most of them are related to family relationships, finances, the presence of support, and generally a favourable environment, which provides an adolescent with an opportunity for self-realization and development (Guevara *et al.*, 2021). An important determinant of the psycho-social well-being of a teenager is family and marital relations. In a family with a harmonious atmosphere and no parent conflicts, the child is more likely to have a good emotional state, while marital conflicts are a prerequisite for negative behaviour and significant issues in the child's development. If the family harmony is disrupted, the child's development is worsened and delayed stage-by-stage (Hess, 2022). According to J. Zhu *et al.* (2022), the identified variables capable of influencing the relationship between marital conflict and child well-being are more or less common in all societies, however, the strength of their impact depends on the cultural and social context in which the family lives.

Q. Gong *et al.* (2023) believe that the change-invariance of family functioning during parental conflict determines the impact of marital conflict on children's well-being. Furthermore, if the function (especially, the father) of the family has not changed and it is still able to meet the needs of the child, it is unlikely that the marital conflict will harm the children. D. Tsela *et al.* (2022) emphasize, that parenting style has a significant impact on the child's development. It is possible to distinguish several parenting styles: Laziness (lack of discipline); hyperactivity (authoritarian discipline, aggression, etc.), and excessive verbalization (excessive verbal activity, instructions, reprimands). A high index in all three directions is associated with a problematic parenting style since effective feedback implies timeliness, systematicity, moderate intensity, and moderate severity. As noted by R.S. Mistry and L. Elenbaas (2021), financial stability and security are subjective factors, and the perception of the family's financial situation is determined not particularly by the amount of income, but by the perception thereof by family members. It can mediate and moderate marital conflict and adolescent psycho-social well-being (Ying *et al.*, 2023). A feeling of psycho-social support from family

members; a child's faith in parental support; the exchange of positive emotions from the relationship, communication, and the parent's ability to resolve conflict are positively related to the child's well-being (EPB, IPB), which may depend on marital conflict (Dominick, 2018). According to Q. Gong *et al.* (2023), the extent to which the negative consequences of marital conflict affect the child depends, among other things, on the child's gender, age, education, ethnicity, and quality of parent-child relationship.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Initially, at the stage of the desk research, based on a review of the available scientific literature on the variables capable of influencing the relationship between marital conflict and psycho-social well-being of the adolescent, the variables capable of influencing the relationship between marital conflict and the psycho-social well-being of the adolescent child were determined: parenting style, family functioning, family financial income, psycho-social support, and demographic data. The next stage of the research employed a questionnaire method to study the moderating and mediating role of variables capable of influencing the relationship between the indicator of marital conflict and the psycho-social well-being of adolescent children. A pilot study was conducted in the second stage of instrument standardization. The pilot study aimed to determine the reliability and validity of the questionnaire developed during the research. The pilot study selected 31 families (couples/husbands) and their teenage children. A total of 31 teenagers. The research included 93 participants. The selection of research participants was non-probable, available. The characteristics of the target group were precisely observed (Bujang *et al.*, 2022). The survey was conducted in a face-to-face interview format at a location convenient for the subjects. Before assessing the reliability of the self-administered questionnaire, the study measured the construct validity of the scales by establishing convergent validity. Convergent validity was assessed by comparing the results of a pilot study on the respondents (husband and wife) with the answers given to similar, adapted questionnaires for two of the five scales developed (wife-husband conflict and family functioning scale) in the study (Panjikidze, 2014; Shanava, 2016), providing similar results. These scales were selected based on their importance in the study. Other existing methods are excessively complicated and were not suitable for this study. The obtained correlation of convergent validity is satisfactory ($r = .34; .49$), which implies that in the case of verification on a large sample, it will provide better results.

Out of 6 scales of the questionnaire developed for parents, 5 scales were developed in the research process, and their separate and unified reliability ($\alpha = .842$) was confirmed by the pilot study. The reliability of the questionnaire created for children was not confirmed in the pilot study data analysis ($\alpha = .49$), therefore, provisions needed to be reformulated, and re-piloting was deemed necessary. According to the data of the research conducted within the repilot of provisions, the reliability index of both scales

(psycho-social support and well-being) and subscales, together and separately, was high ($\alpha = .894$). In addition, with factor analysis, study goal achievability was determined (Bujang *et al.*, 2022). In the process of study methodology standardization, the factor analysis required a different distribution of statements in the sub-scales and, in some cases, changing the names of the scales in contrast to the reviewed literature. This is determined by the cultural peculiarity, which, to some extent, contributes to the research novelty. At this stage of research, an influential variable identification method was developed, which helped in the study of the influential variables and their role in the adolescent's psycho-social satisfaction in the family. Furthermore, the research hypotheses were formed, and the moderating-mediating role of the research aspects was verified in the third study stage.

Research hypotheses:

H.1.1.: The level of the mother's marital conflict tendency determines the level of psycho-social well-being of the adolescent child;

H.1.2.: The level of the father's marital conflict tendency determines the level of psycho-social well-being of the adolescent child;

H.2.1.: The level of the mother's functioning in the family plays the role of a mediator between the level of the mother's marital conflict tendency and the level of psycho-social well-being of the adolescent child;

H.2.2.: The level of the father's functioning in the family plays the role of a mediator between the level of the father's marital conflict tendency and the level of psycho-social well-being of the adolescent child;

H.3.1. Mother's parenting style has a moderating effect on the relationship between the mother's marital conflict tendency level and the level of psycho-social well-being of the adolescent child;

H.3.2. Father's parenting style has a moderating effect on the relationship between the father's marital conflict tendency level and the adolescent child's psycho-social well-being level;

H.4.1. The mother's perception of the family's financial situation has a moderating effect on the relationship between the mother's marital conflict tendency level and the level of psycho-social well-being of the adolescent child;

H.4.2. The father's perception of the family's financial situation has a moderating effect on the relationship between the father's marital conflict tendency level and the level of psycho-social well-being of the adolescent child;

H.5.1. Mother's perception of psychosocial support in the family has a moderating effect on the relationship between the mother's marital conflict tendency level and the level of psycho-social well-being of the adolescent child;

H.5.2. The father's perception of psycho-social support in the family has a moderating effect on the relationship between the father's marital conflict tendency level and the level of psycho-social well-being of the adolescent child.

SPSS Process macro models 1 and 4 were used to determine the mediation and moderating effect (Regorz, 2023).

At the final study stage, a hypothesis-verification study was conducted in Spring 2023, on 167 families, living in Georgia, a total of 501 people, 167 mothers, 167 – fathers, and their teenage children aged 11-18 years, participated in the research. Most of the married couples participating in the research are from Tbilisi, and the age of the majority of the interviewed parents is 30-45 years. Most of the respondent parents have higher education, are employed, have more than one child and most of them live only with their child/children. As for the age and gender of the children, both genders and age categories (11-14 and 15-17 years) are more or less equally represented in the sample. Participants in this phase of the study filled out a printed copy of the standardized self-report questionnaire from the first stage of the study, accompanied by an “informed consent form”. Participation in the study was voluntary, and all respondents were informed in advance of the purpose of the study, the details of the instructions for completing the questionnaire, and their right to skip unwanted questions and/or opt out of the study process. In the process of finding respondents, purposeful, accessible sampling and “snowballing” methods were used. A prerequisite for joining the study was a married couple with at least one adolescent child. In the case of several children of the mentioned age, only one child participated, and the parents expressed their position on the proposed provisions for the child participating in the study. Participants were asked to rate their level of agreement with the content of each statement in the questionnaire on a 1-5-point scale. Recommendations regarding the step-by-step validation of the received questionnaires were provided (Bujang *et al.*, 2022).

RESULTS

Hypotheses were formulated and validated during the research process. Following a comprehensive analysis of the research data, an investigation into the interrelationships among the variables was undertaken to assess the primary research hypotheses. The outcomes of this analysis disclosed the following. According to the results of the regression analysis, all four variables, the feeling of psycho-social support of both spouses; family functioning; the perception of the financial situation, and the feeling of the presence of psycho-social support by the child may have (in both parents) a mediating function between marital conflict and the adolescent's psycho-social well-being. The regression analysis also showed that the mother's and father's parenting styles did not stem from the conflict indicator. This implies that it could only have a moderating role (H.3.1. and H.3.2.), as the study shows, the regression analysis rejected several hypotheses, (H.4.1., H.4.2., H.5.1. and H.5.2), formed the basis for the verification of two hypotheses (H.2.1. and H.2.2) and raised the assumptions of the mediating role of parents' financial perception and perception of parents and children's psycho-social support, which was verified in the next step. In the mediation analysis of the variables, it was found that in the case of the mother and the father, the level of functioning of the family of the parents implied by the hypothesis performs a strong mediating function between the marital conflict and the child's psycho-social well-being. However, in the case of the father, there is a more pronounced presence of indirect mediation when compared to the mother (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1. The mediating role of the mother's family functioning

R	R-sq	MSE	F	df1	df2	P
.7411	.5493	.1360	173.0511	1.0000	142.0000	.0000

X: a direct and indirect effect of a variable on Y: variable

direct effect .3396 indirect effect .0816

Note: X – mother's marital conflict tendency; Y – adolescent psychosocial well-being; M – mother's family functioning; R-sq – effect-size measures are presented to assess variance accounted for in mediation models; P – the degree of data compatibility with the null hypothesis; MSE – mean squared error; F – distribution and df1 and df2 – two different degrees of freedom

Source: compiled by the author

Table 2. The mediating role of the father's family functioning

R	R-sq	MSE	F	df1	df2	P
.8246	.6799	.0922	290.9813	1.0000	134.0000	0000

X: A direct and indirect effect of a variable on Y: Variable

direct effect .1649 indirect effect .3148

Note: X – father's marital conflict tendency; Y – adolescent psychosocial well-being; M – father's family functioning; R-sq – effect-size measures are presented to assess variance accounted for in mediation models; P – the degree of data compatibility with the null hypothesis; MSE – mean squared error; F – distribution and df1 and df2 – two different degrees of freedom

Source: compiled by the author

Furthermore, regarding both parents, the perception of financial status exhibits a limited mediating role. The sense of psycho-social support experienced

by both parents and adolescents demonstrates a moderate mediating effect for mothers and a mild one for fathers (Table 3).

Table 3. Verification of the assumptions of the mediation effect revealed in the research process

M: Perception of psycho-social support by parents							
	R	R-sq	MSE	F	dF1	Df2	P
Mother	.6206	.3852	.1613	91.4563	1.0000	146.0000	.0000
Father	.4446	.1977	.2527	17.2494	2.0000	140.0000	.0000
M: Perception of the financial situation							
	R	R-sq	MSE	F	dF1	Df2	P
Mother	.3918	.1535	.5816	26.3020	1.0000	145.0000	.0000
Father	.3099	.0960	.4990	14.9749	1.0000	141.0000	.0002
M: Perception of psycho-social support by child							
	R	R-sq	MSE	F	dF1	Df2	P
Mother	.5560	.3092	.2403	31.9979	2.0000	143.0000	.0000
Father	.4741	.2248	.1648	.405968	10000	140.0000	.0000

Note: X – mother's marital conflict tendency; Y – adolescent psychosocial well-being; M – mediator variables; R-sq – effect-size measures are presented to assess variance accounted for in mediation models; P – the degree of data compatibility with the null hypothesis; MSE – mean squared error; F – distribution and df1 and df2 – two different degrees of freedom

Source: compiled by the author

The moderating analysis of variables lost its meaning, as all the research variables were derived from the implied independent variable (parental marital conflict tendency), which predicted their mediating role. Only the parenting style of the parents was not derived from the independent variable, which could have a moderating

effect on the dependent variable (adolescent's psycho-social well-being), however, for this, Parenting style should have a predictive function for the dependent variable, which was not found, and therefore, a variable with a moderating effect was not identified in the research process (Table 4).

Table 4. Relationship between husband and wife's parenting style and adolescent child's psycho-social well-being

Model	B	Std. error	Beta	t	Sig.
Father's parenting style (X) and adolescent's psycho-social well-being (Y)	-.110	.071	-.125	-1.552	.123
Mother's parenting style (X) and adolescent psycho-social well-being (Y)	-.024	.077	-.026	-.314	.754

Note: B – original units besides the slope; std. error – expresses the degree of uncertainty in the accuracy of the dependent variable's projected values; beta – standardised coefficient between -1 to +1; t – measures how many standard errors the coefficient is away from 0; sig. – significant amount of variance in the outcome variable

Source: compiled by the author

As a summary of the data, it is possible to state, that the mother's and father's perception of the family's financial situation and psycho-social support plays the role of a mediator between the level of the mother's and father's marital conflict tendency and the adolescent child's level of psycho-social well-being. The results of this analysis revealed the following:

- The level of marital conflict tendency of the mother and father determines the level of psycho-social well-being of the adolescent child (confirmed – H1.1 and H1.2);

- The level of functioning of the mother and father in the family acts as a mediator between the level of the mother's and father's marital conflict tendency and the level of psycho-social well-being of the adolescent child (confirmed – H.2.1 and H.2.2);

- Mother's and father's parenting styles do not have a moderating effect on the relationship between the level of the mother's and father's marital conflict tendency and the

psycho-social well-being level of the adolescent child (not confirmed – H.3.1. and H.3.2.);

- The mother's and father's perception of the family's financial situation and psycho-social support do not have a moderating effect on the relationship between the mother's and father's marital conflict tendency level and the adolescent child's psycho-social well-being level (not confirmed – H.4.1, H.4.2, H.5.1, and H.5.2).

Based on the results of the research and the empirical foundation requirements in the therapeutic field, recommendations on significant improvement of the therapeutic, practical, and scientific research directions for further study of family psychology can be noted:

1. Conducting extensive research on homogenous families is recommended to address the limitations associated with the unidentified moderating role of parenting style and demographic data;

2. At the beginning of the therapy, in the assessment, the importance of the mediation variables (especially in the case of the father) should be shared with the beneficiary;

3. In the process of caring for the adolescent's psycho-social well-being, parental functioning improvement should be focused;

4. A recommended course of action addressing both the financial situation of parents and their child's perception of support within the family.

DISCUSSION

There are many studies and theories, which indicate the harm of marital conflict in the development of children's well-being and behavioural tendencies (Spremo, 2020; Chakraborty, 2023; Karkashadze *et al.*, 2023). Studies emphasize that the well-being of children depends on the level of marital conflict (how balanced their relationship is and/or how high the risk of conflict is) and a significant distinction exists in the welfare of children between families with high levels of marital conflict and those with low levels of such conflict. According to R. van Dijk *et al.* (2020) and A. Chakraborty (2023), the relationship between parents significantly influences the behavioural education of a child in a socially acceptable and problematic situation. Marital conflict in the family appears as a source of stress for children, reduces the well-being of the child/children, and increases the risk of emotional and behavioural problems. Scientists believe that this process is associated with the development of emotional and behavioural problems in children.

M. Spremo (2020) believes that marital conflict and divorce do not affect the well-being of children in all cases, however, it significantly increases the risk of developing negative consequences caused by the conflict and endangers the psychological well-being of the child and other family members. This opinion is supported by the research of Q. Gong *et al.* (2023), according to which the rate of marital conflict does not affect all children in the same way. Some children manage to overcome the stress caused by parental conflict and parental separation, while others develop psycho-social difficulties. According to Q. Gong *et al.* (2023), to understand the difference between the children of families with high, medium, and low levels of conflict in coping with stress and psychosocial difficulties caused by marital conflict in the family, it is necessary to study the variables capable of influencing the relationship between the level of marital conflict and the child's well-being. According to J. Zhu *et al.* (2022), the variables capable of influencing the relationship between marital conflicts and child well-being are more or less common in all cultures, however, the strength of their impact depends on the cultural and social context in which the family lives. The cultural peculiarity of the Georgian family explains the result difference between study expectations and research results of mediator variables. A characteristic feature of the Georgian family is the special responsibility and obligations assigned to the mother, which she fulfils unconditionally. There are high expectations and an unconditional reputation associated with

mothers. On the other hand, fathers have only recently become more involved in family activities, previously limited to providing financially and being the family leader. Today, as fathers don't have unconditional authority due to the ongoing maternal responsibilities, their impact depends on their relationship with the mother. As a result, during times of marital conflict, the quality of the father's functioning in the family gains importance (Sumbadze, 2006).

Regardless of what was expected of the moderating role of the mentioned variable/variables, these results fit other study findings, that in Georgia, the level of perception of the financial situation (mediation variable) and psycho-social support by husband (mediation variable) and wife (mediation variable) depends on what kind of relationship they have with each other. This emphasizes the cultural characteristics of Georgia, the tendency of interdependence and the priority of family and others' opinions in Georgian's daily life (Sumbadze, 2006), which has a significant impact on the subjective reality of husband and wife. When there is a conflict between husband and wife, as dependent members of society, parents experience less support, become confused, underestimate their finances, fail to provide a supportive environment for their children, and this affects children's well-being (Ying *et al.*, 2023). When explaining the findings, it is essential to consider the unique aspects of family dynamics and child-rearing practices in Georgian culture. Previous studies (Sumbadze, 2006; United Nations Children's Fund, 2020), exploring the specifics of Georgian families, highlight the cultural context, indicating that parenting styles in Georgia tend to be relatively uniform, reflecting parental attitudes with disposition. These styles, notably, are not significantly affected by changes in family dynamics and do not show a direct impact on children's well-being. However, the study was unable to establish a direct relation between parenting style and child well-being, which might be attributed to the non-homogeneity of the sample. This result calls for further research to identify the potential variables influencing this process.

CONCLUSIONS

By analysing the relationship between the variables conducted to check the main research hypotheses, it was concluded that the high tendency for marital conflict between both parents hurts the psycho-social well-being of adults; the negative impact of the high tendency of marital conflict between both parents on the psycho-social well-being of adolescents is to some extent explained by the parent's perception of their financial situation, their and their child's feelings of psycho-social support, and the change in the functioning of the parents' family, which is accompanied by an increase in the indicator of marital conflict. Therefore, if, despite the marital conflict, the functioning of the family and the perception of financial status and support are not changed or supported, the degree of reflection of the marital conflict on the adolescent's psycho-social well-being will be low. Variables with a moderating role (demographic data and parenting style) could not be identified, which either

strengthens or weakens the reflection of marital conflict on the level of psycho-social well-being of the adolescent. It could be explained either by cultural reasons, a small sample size, or the inhomogeneity of the sampled families.

Study results show that, in Georgia, the feeling of belonging to a spouse, marital relationship, and emotional interdependence play a leading role in the perception of the well-being of other research variables. Even when the independence of family members (even husband and wife) is achieved and there is a basis for autonomy (finances, etc.), there is still a sense of control and interdependence, achieving independence does not imply separation. The scientific novelty of this study is the meaning of marital relationships for Georgian spouses and the mediation roles of studied variables affecting the relationship between marital conflict and adolescents' psycho-social well-being. Furthermore, until this research, there was no reliable and valid resource in the Georgian scientific community, which could be used

to study the factors affecting the psycho-social well-being of adolescents. In the present study, a screening tool commonly referred to as a screening instrument was employed to aid psychotherapists and family researchers in examining and detecting altered indicators of marital conflict that impact adolescent well-being, to inform family therapy planning. A deliberate focus on them will reduce the negative impact of marital conflict on adolescents. Research-based scientific reasoning will create a more empirical basis for family psychology as a therapeutic practical direction.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research [PHDF-22-1043] has been supported by the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia (SRNSFG).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

REFERENCES

- [1] Alelishvili, N., Janelidze, A., Jjavadze, N., & Kukhaleishvili, T. (2019). *A child-loving environment: How to create a child-centered safe environment in the early and preschool education system*. Tbilisi: United Nations Children's Fund.
- [2] Bujang, M.A., Khee, H.Y., & Yee, L.K. (2022). *A step-by-step guide to questionnaire validation research*. Kuala Lumpur: Institute for Clinical Research. doi: 10.5281/zenodo.6801209.
- [3] Chakraborty, A. (2023). *A review article on the outcomes of marital conflicts on child growth and development*. *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, 11(2), 214-226.
- [4] Code on the Rights of the Child of Georgia. (2019, September). Retrieved from [https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/4613854?publication=2\(Georgian\)](https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/4613854?publication=2(Georgian)).
- [5] Dominick, C. (2018). *Inter-parental relationship quality and its effects on children: A literature review to support analysis and policy*. Retrieved from <https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/literature-reviews/inter-parental-relationships/inter-parental-relationship-quality-and-its-effects-on-children-literature-review-april2018.pdf>.
- [6] Gong, Q., Kramer, K.Z., & Tu, K.M. (2023). Fathers' marital conflict and children's socioemotional skills: A moderated-mediation model of conflict resolution and parenting. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 37(7), 1048-1059. doi: 10.1037/fam0001102.
- [7] Guevara, R.M., Moral-García, J.E., Urchaga, J.D., & López-García, S. (2021). Relevant factors in adolescent well-being: Family and parental relationships. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(14), article number 7666. doi: 10.3390/ijerph18147666.
- [8] Hess, S. (2022). Effects of inter-parental conflict on children's social well-being and the mediation role of parenting behavior, applied research in quality of life. *International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies*, 17(4), 2059-2085. doi: 10.1007/s11482-021-10022-y.
- [9] Karkashadze, N., Kuprashvili, T., & Gugeshashvili, T. (2023). The role of the family in the socialization of the individual contemporary problems and perspectives. *International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science*, 1. doi: 10.31435/rsglobal_ijitss/30032023/7942.
- [10] Mistry, R.S., & Elenbaas, L. (2021). It's all in the family: Parents' economic worries and youth's perceptions of financial stress and educational outcomes. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 50(4), 724-738. doi: 10.1007/s10964-021-01393-4.
- [11] Olson, D.H. (2000). Circumplex model of marital and family systems. *Journal of Family Therapy*, 22(2), 144-167. doi: 10.1111/1467-6427.00144.
- [12] Olson, D.H., & Lavee, Y. (1989). Family systems and family stress: A family life cycle perspective. In K. Kreppner, & R.M. Lerner (Eds.), *Family systems and life-span development* (pp. 165-195). New York: Psychology Press. doi: 10.4324/9780203771280.
- [13] Panjikidze, M. (2014). *The relationship between posttraumatic growth, family functioning, and emotional intelligence* (PhD thesis, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia).
- [14] Regorz, A. (2023). *PROCESS version 3 & version 4 – key model templates: The most important models for mediation, moderation and moderated mediation with Hayes' SPSS macro*. Retrieved from http://www.regorz-statistik.de/en/process_3_model_templates.html#moderation.
- [15] Seligman, M.E.P. (2011). *Flourish: A visionary new understanding of happiness and well-being*. New York: Free Press.

- [16] Shanava, I. (2016). *The role of adjustment and conflict factors in marital conflicts* (Doctoral thesis, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia).
- [17] Spremo, M. (2020). [Children and divorce](#). *Psychiatria Danubina*, 32 (Suppl. 3), 353-359.
- [18] Sumbadze, N. (2006). Georgia. In J. Georgas, J.W. Berry, F.J.R. van de Vijver, Kağitçibaşı, Ç., & Poortinga, Y.H. (Eds.), *Families across cultures: A 30-nation psychological study* (pp. 319-326). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi: [10.1017/CBO9780511489822.019](#).
- [19] Tsela, D., Tsela, R.D., & Lopez, I.G. (2022). Relations between parenting styles and parenting practices and children's school achievement. *Social Sciences*, 12(1), article number 5. doi: [10.3390/socsci12010005](#).
- [20] United Nations Children's Fund. (2020). *Child disciplinary practice in Georgia: Multiple indicator cluster survey*. Retrieved from https://www.unicef.org/georgia/media/5511/file/Discipline_Report_ENGLISH.pdf.
- [21] Van Dijk, R., van der Valk, I.E., Dekovic, M., & Branje, S. (2020). A meta-analysis on interparental conflict, parenting, and child adjustment in divorced families: Examining mediation using meta-analytic structural equation models. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 79, article number 101861. doi: [10.1016/j.cpr.2020.101861](#).
- [22] Ying, L., Wang, Y., & Yu, SH. (2023). Marital conflict, family socioeconomic status, and depressive symptoms in migrant children: A moderating mediational model. *Behavioral Sciences*, 13(6), article number 441. doi: [10.3390/bs13060441](#).
- [23] Zhu, J., Liu, M., Shu, X., Xiang, S., Jiang, Y., & Li, Y. (2022). The moderating effect of marital conflict on the relationship between social avoidance and socio-emotional functioning among young children in suburban China. *Developmental Psychology*, 13, article number 1009528. doi: [10.3389/fpsyg.2022.1009528](#).

Ніно Кітошвілі

Аспірант

Тбіліський державний університет імені Івана Джавахішвілі

0179, просп. Іллі Чавчавадзе, 1, м. Тбілісі, Грузія

<https://orcid.org/0009-0008-9837-6693>

Подружній конфлікт та психосоціальне благополуччя підлітка: аналіз медіації та модерації

Анотація. Актуальність дослідження зумовлено тим, що подружні конфлікти безпосередньо впливають на психоемоційний стан дитини, зокрема підлітка. Мета роботи полягала у виявленні змінних, здатних вплинути на зв'язок між схильністю до подружніх конфліктів і психосоціальним благополуччям дітей, а також визначити посередницьку та модераційну роль ідентифікованих змінних. Досягнення поставлених завдань відбувалося в кілька етапів. Насамперед визначено змінні, здатні вплинути на зв'язок між подружнім конфліктом і психосоціальним благополуччям підлітків. На другому етапі розроблено інструмент дослідження (опитувальник) для ідентифікованих змінних, а потім проаналізовано, як ці змінні здатні опосередковувати та модерувати психосоціальний стан дітей. Отримані результати підкреслюють здатність подружніх відносин у грузинському суспільстві впливати на різні аспекти життя його членів. Дослідження показало, що фінансове становище батьків, відчуття психосоціальної підтримки їх і їхніх дітей і зміни у функціонуванні батьківської сім'ї в Грузії походять від індексу сімейних конфліктів і відображаються на погіршенні психосоціального благополуччя підлітків. Щодо стилю виховання, який не набув у дослідженні посередницької та модераційної ролі, то його можна пов'язати з культурною особливістю та визначити як завдання для майбутніх досліджень. Стаття має теоретичне (сприяє розширенню теоретичних знань у галузі сімейної психології) та практичне застосування (дає важливу інформацію для використання результатів дослідження, що є одним із перших кроків уперед для вивчення сім'ї та використання в терапевтичних цілях)

Ключові слова: сім'я; діти; функціонування сім'ї; стилі виховання; психосоціальна підтримка