



A Structural Equation Model of Attachment Among Adolescent Mothers and Their Mothers

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Introduction


- Attachment between adolescent mothers and their mothers is important source of support for enhancing adolescent mothers' feelings of security, protection, and comfort when faced with distress or threat.
- Adolescent mothers are not ready to become a mother and their motherhood becomes problematic for them.
- They are more likely to perceive this transition role to motherhood as a critical period

Introduction

- Consequently, most Thai adolescent mothers (60 - 67.7%) stay with their mothers and original families in order to receive familial support
- The quality of attachment can be positive or negative outcomes with adolescent mother and their family.
- Therefore, it is essential to identify the predictors and mediator of this attachment and could be applied to increase the benefits of attachment outcomes.

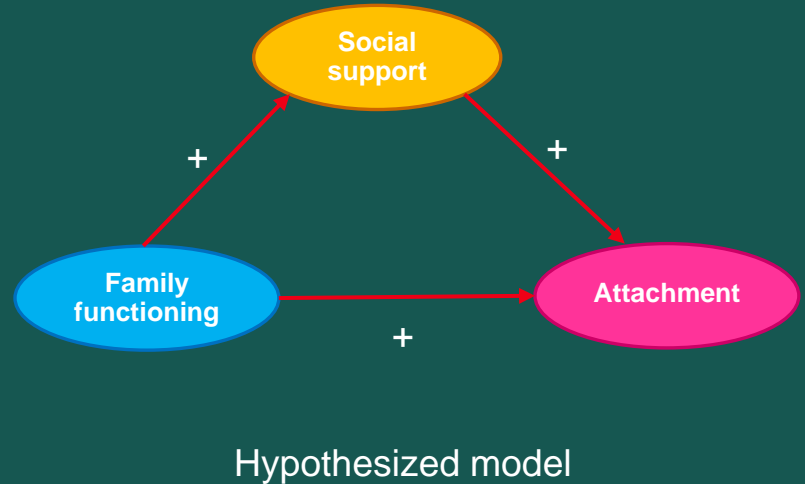
Objective



-  This study aimed to develop a model to explain the factors influencing attachment among adolescent mothers and their mothers.

Hypotheses

- ❖ family functioning & social support would be associated with attachment among adolescent mothers and their mothers.



Methodology



Participants

- A multi-stage random sampling technique was used to recruit a total of 240 adolescent mothers

Inclusion criteria

- aged under 19 years old
- lived with their own mothers for at least 6 months
- had their baby aged about 6-12 months with no congenital anomaly or serious health condition.
- able to read and write Thai

Methodology



- ❄ Data were collected between January to July 2019 at vaccination-baby clinics in 31 health promoting hospitals.
- ❄ Used three self-reported questionnaires:
 - the Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (IPPA).
 - the Chulalongkorn Family Inventory (CFI).
 - the Postpartum Support Questionnaire (PSQ).
- ❄ SEM analysis was conducted to test the hypotheses
- ❄ The IRB approval was obtained (IRB No. 02-10-2561)



Research setting



Results



- ❁ Mean of age was 17.80 years
- ❁ 69.6 % was living with spouse without marriage license
- ❁ 55.8 % had unplanned pregnancy
- ❁ 58.34 % lived with mother, family members, and spouse.
- ❁ 50.8 % had completed lower secondary school,
- ❁ 45.4% had unemployed

Results

Table 1 Regression weights, direct (DE), indirect (IE), and total effects (TE) of the final modified model

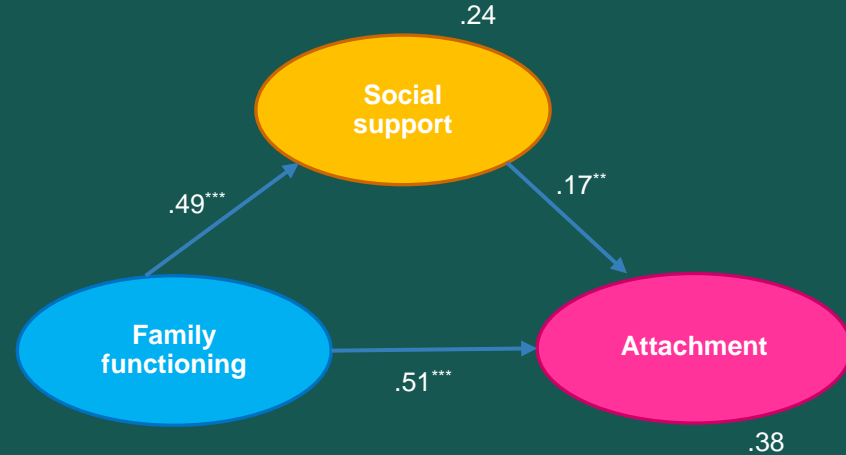
Exogenous variable	Endogenous variable	Estimate Unstandardized	SE	CR	Estimate Standardized		
					DE	IE	TE
Family functioning	→ Attachment	.97	.14	6.93	.51 ^{***}	.08*	.59 ^{***}
Family functioning	→ Social support	1.09	.17	6.54	.49 ^{***}		.49 ^{***}
Social support	→ Attachment	.15	.06	2.75	.17 ^{**}		.17 ^{**}

SE standard error, CR composite reliability

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

Results

- ❖ The SEM has satisfactorily fit with the data
- ❖ $\chi^2 = 51.966$, $p = .221$, $df = 45$, $CMIN/df = 1.16$, $GFI = 0.966$, $AGFI = 0.941$, $CFI = 0.995$, and $RMSEA = .025$).
- ❖ The final model accounted for 38 % of the variance in attachment



Discussion

Family functioning had a positive direct effect on attachment:

- ❖ better problem solving, cohesion, & communication might have to provide feeling of togetherness, responsiveness, an increasing relationship in family that associated with higher levels of secure attachment.

Social support had a positive direct effect on attachment:

- ❖ by increasing feeling of security, life satisfaction, capacity to seek a problem solving and caring from attached figures

Conclusion

- ❖ The findings highlight the significance predictor and mediator of attachment among adolescent mothers and their mothers.
- ❖ Predictor was family functioning. Mediator was social support.
- ❖ Findings from this study could be useful in the design of effective intervention among adolescent mothers and grandmothers in order to enhance positive attachment outcome.



**Thank you very
much for your
attention!!**

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