

Child Maltreatment in Terms of Parent-Adolescent Relationships: A Control Theory Approach¹

*Esra Ismen Gazioglu**

Riassunto

Lo scopo della ricerca è quello di analizzare, sulla base della teoria del controllo, gli abusi fisici, psicologici e le situazioni di incuria in termini di relazione tra genitori e figli adolescenti. Il gruppo di ricerca era composto di 251 adolescenti, dei quali 130 femmine e 121 maschi. Allo scopo di determinare le modalità di controllo dei genitori tramite tecniche dirette e indirette, sono state utilizzate le "Parental Control Scales" (Scale del Controllo Genitoriale) (Kaner, 2000). L'indagine è stata effettuata dai ricercatori con lo scopo di ottenere informazioni sugli abusi, sulle esperienze di incuria e su alcune caratteristiche demografiche. I risultati hanno dimostrato che esistono dei legami tra abusi fisici, psicologici e situazioni di incuria, da una parte e controllo da parte dei genitori, dall'altra; gli adolescenti che hanno subito abusi e trascuratezze sono meno controllati e hanno maggiori problemi relazionali con i genitori rispetto a quelli che non hanno subito tali situazioni.

Résumé

Le but de la recherche est d'analyser, sur la base de la Théorie du contrôle, les abus physiques, émotionnels et les états de négligence en ce qui concerne les rapports entre fils adolescents et leur parents. Le groupe de recherche était composé par 251 adolescents, dont 130 filles et 121 garçons. Pour déterminer le monitoring parental à travers le contrôle direct et indirect des parents les "Parental Control Scales" (Kaner, 2000) ont été utilisés. La recherche a été effectuée dans le but d'obtenir des informations sur les abus, sur les expériences de négligence et sur les caractéristiques démographiques. Les résultats ont démontré qu'il y a des relations entre, d'une part, les abus physiques, émotionnels et les états de négligence et situations de manque de contrôle de la part des parents, d'autre part; les adolescents qui ont subi des abus et ont été négligés sont moins contrôlés et ont plus de problèmes relationnels avec leur parents par rapport aux adolescents qui n'ont pas subi de telles situations.

Abstract

The aim of this research is to investigate emotional, physical abuse and neglect in terms of parent-adolescent relationships which are based upon Control Theory. The research group consisted of 251 adolescents, 130 were girls and 121 were boys. In order to determine parental monitoring by direct and indirect parental control "Parental Control Scales" were used. A survey which is developed by researcher to have information abuse, neglect experiences and some demographical characteristics was administrated. The findings showed that there are associations between emotional, physical abuse and neglect experiences and parental control; abused and neglected adolescents to be less controlled and to have more negative relationships with their parents than non-abused and non-neglected adolescents.

¹ Some of these findings have been initially presented as an oral presentation in the 10^{ème} Colloque de l'AICLF-Criminologie comparée: Aspects théoriques et empiriques/ La question des violences domestiques, Université de Galatasaray, Istanbul, 22-23 mai, 2006.

* She received her PhD from İstanbul University in 1999. She is an assistant professor and vice head of the Department of Educational Sciences, Istanbul University Hasan Ali Yucel Faculty of Education. She teaches Introduction to Psychology, Child Rights and Protection, Child Psychology Practices and Adult Psychology. She has published articles on child abuse and emotional intelligence.

Research shows one of the negative life outcomes often related to maltreatment is delinquency eg.². The control theory claims that people are controlled by their social bonds with the social system. The opinion that “attachment to traditional values and institutions creates a social control that prevents crime” underlies this theory³. As cited in Kaner ⁴, the control theory point out that the adolescent will be inclined to delinquency because he couldn’t learn what to do and what not to do due to insufficient control during his socialisation process and thus hasn’t been able to develop moral bonds with the traditional social system. The main element of social control is the family. According to Hirschi there are four main elements of the social bonds that prevent delinquency. *Attachment*: The love, closeness and sensitivity a person feels towards traditional characters like parents, teachers, and friends. *Commitment*: States how voluntary the individual is to invest in adapting to traditional actions and rules and evaluating losses that arise with not adapting to them, and how willing he is the

continue certain types of behavior. *Involvement*: Is the degree of the individual’s participation in traditional activities. *Belief*: Is the way the individual accepts society’s traditional value system and his feelings of obligation for behaving in accordance with them. In this context, the individual who has strong bonds with his family will be more interested in traditional activities, attend them more and develop strong beliefs in relation to traditional values.

Nye, evaluates the *direct parental control* over the adolescent as an external control that is a sum of restriction, control and punishment. Wells ve Rankin (1988) claim there are 3 elements of direct control. These are: 1-Normative regulation 2-Monitoring 3-Punishment. According to Nye, *indirect control* is the love and closeness the young person feels towards his parents and other traditional characters. The young person will stay away from undesired behavior in order to please the people he loves, will value their thoughts and try to be with them. This type of control includes the respect, love, trust and closeness with the parents. Some writers evaluate this type of control as “attachment”⁵. After the presentation about studies that handle delinquency in respect to the social control theory is given in the initial part of the introduction of this study, researches on the relationship between delinquency and childhood abuse experience are presented shortly. Following these, the relationship between insufficient monitoring and child abuse will try to be discussed together in the light of relevant research. Poor parental monitoring and discipline has been consistently found to be related to participation in delinquent and violent behavior in

² Herrenkohl I. T., Huang B., Tajima A. E., Whitney D., S., “Examining the link between child abuse and youth violence”, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 18(1), 2003, 1189-1208; Lowenkamp T. C., Holsinger M. A., Latessa, E. J., “Risk/need assessment, offender classification, and rule of childhood abuse”, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 28(5), 2001, 543-563; Stouthamer-Loeber M., Wei H. E., Homish L. D., Loeber R., “Which family and demographic factors are related to both maltreatment and persistent serious juvenile delinquency?”, *Children’s Services: Social Policy, Research, and Practice*, 5(4), 2002, 261-272.

³ Pun Ngai N., Kiu Cheung C., “Predictors of the likelihood of delinquency”, *Youth and Society*, 36(4), 2005, 445-470.

⁴ Kaner S., “Kontrol Kuramına dayalı anababa-ergen ilişkileri olcegi gelistirme çalışması”, *A.U. Eğitim Bilimleri Fakulte Dergisi*, 33(1-2), 2000, 67-75; Kaner S., “Anababa denetimleriyle ergenlerin suç kabul edilen davranışları arasındaki ilişkinin incelenmesi”, *I. Ulusal Çocuk ve Suç: Nedenler ve Önleme Çalışmaları Sempozyumu Bildiri Kitabı*, 2001, 229-250.

⁵ Kaner S., Ibidem, 2000.

many research studies⁶. Besides, relevant literature shows one of the variables related to delinquency is to childhood abuse experience.

Researches that investigate abuse and delinquent behavior usually focus on physical abuse and state that children that commit delinquent behavior have been abused more⁷. As cited in Kirimsoy⁸ delinquent adolescents' parents are less care them, behave in a more authoritarian manner, and delinquents describe their family discipline as

⁶ Capaldi D.N. & Patterson G. R., "Can violent offenders be distinguished from frequent offenders? Prediction from childhood to adolescence", *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 33, 1996, 206-231; Farrington D. P., "Childhood adolescent, and adult features of violent males", in Huesmann L. R: (ed.), *Aggressive behavior: Current perspectives*, New York, Plenum Pres, 1994, 215-240; Gorman-Smith D., Tolan P. H., Zelli A. & Huesmann L. R., "The relations of family functioning to violence among inner-city minority youths", *Journal of Family Psychology*, 10, 1996, 115-129; Patterson G. R., Reid J. B. & Dishion T. J., *Antisocial boys: A social interactional approach*, Eugene, OR, Castalia, 1992.

⁷ Akalin N., "Cocugun suca itilmesinde toplumsallasma ogelerinin etkisi", *I. Istanbul Cocuk Kurultayi Bildiriler Kitabi*, Istanbul: Istanbul Cocuklari Vakfi Yayinlari, 2000, 524-533; Cebiroglu R., Yurtbay T., "Saldirgan davranisli Cocuklarda bazi psiko-sosyal etkenler", *10. Milli Psikiyatri ve Norolojik Bilimler Kongresi Bilimsel Calismalari*, Ankara, Hacettepe Universitesi, 1974, 309-314; Haapasalo J., Moilanen J., "Official and self-reported childhood abuse and adult crime of young offenders", *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 31(2), 2004, 127-149; Herrenkohl I. T., Huang B., Tajima A. E., Whitney D. S., Ibidem; Il S., Arikan C., "Turkiye'de Cocuk egitim evlerindeki hukumlu genclerin aile ici siddete iliskin degerlendirmeleri", *Aile Kurultayi "Degisim surecinde aile; toplumsal katilim ve demokratik degerler"*, Ankara, T.C., Basbakanlik Aile Arastirma Kurumu Yayinlari, 1994, 284-294; Konanc E., Gunce G., "Child abuse in Turkey", In Lavitt J. E. (Ed.), *Child Abuse and Neglect Research and Innovations*, Boston, NATO ASI Series, 1983, 135-149; Nofziger S. & Kurtz D., "Violent lives: Lifestyle model linking exposure to violence to juvenile violent offending", *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 42(1), 2005, 3-26; Ulugtekin S., *Hukumlu Cocuk ve Yeniden Toplumsallasma*, Ankara, Bizim Buro Yayinlari, 1991.

⁸ Kirimsoy, E., *Suc islemis ve suc islememis ergenlerin algiladiklari duygusal istismarin ve benlik algilarinin karsilastirmali olarak incelenmesi*, Unpublished Master Thesis, Ankara University, Ankara, 2003.

either too harsh or too soft and report the inconsistency of the discipline methods in their families. Kirimsoy has found that delinquent adolescents perceived more emotionally abused by their parents than nondelinquent adolescents.

As cited in Grogan-Kaylor and Otis⁹ study that investigate the relationship between abuse and adult criminality are usually based on the cycle of violence or cycle of abuse perspective. The focus has been on the criminal behavior of those who have been abused physically and sexually in their childhood. Although these studies provide little or no clear support for the cycle of violence argument, child maltreatment is handled as a factor that contributes to problem behavior in later life. Studies performed in the light of such findings have pointed to both theoretical and methodical limitations and cycle of violence have begun to be handled in a larger perspective in the ecological model. It's been highlighted that child maltreatment would be better understood in larger contexts like family dynamics, poverty, neighborhood and community factors.

In most studies that handle maltreatment and juvenile delinquency together, the dependent variable is delinquency and the independent variable is the abusive experience. However, when these two variables are evaluated with familial factors, results change. For example, Heck ve Walsh¹⁰ found that maltreatment had a greater impact on violent delinquency than type of family structure, socioeconomic status, verbal IQ,

⁹ Grogan- Kaylor A., Otis M.D., "The effect of childhood maltreatment on adult criminality: Tobit regression analysis", *Child Maltreatment*, 8(2), 2003, 129-137.

¹⁰ Heck C., Walsh A., "The effects of maltreatment and family structure on minor and serious delinquency", *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 44(2), 2000, 178-193.

family size or birth order. Similarly, Kelley, Thornberry & Smith¹¹ have worked on the hypothesis that when negative familial factors are taken into account, maltreatment has an independent effect in explaining criminal behavior. Zingraff, Leiter, Myers, and Johnson¹² on the other hand, have found that maltreatment does not predict serious delinquency impact when family structure is controlled in their research. Similarly, Stouthamer-Loeber, Wei, Homish and Loeber's study¹³ found similar risk factors accompanying serious delinquency and maltreatment. Both family interactions and demographic incompetencies have been found to be related to serious delinquency and maltreatment. When accounting for family and demographic factors, having been maltreated had an independent effect on persistent serious delinquency. These studies urge us to think on what family variables might be causing both delinquent behavior and maltreatment.

Both juvenile delinquency and maltreatment are related with various familial incompetencies and parents' negative interaction styles with their children. Poor parental skills, parental stress, insufficient interaction between parent and child, poverty, young parenthood, parental criminality or mental health problems, low education level of parents are related to delinquency in offspring¹⁴.

¹¹ Kelley B. T., Thornberry T. P. & Smith C.A., "In the wake of childhood maltreatment", *OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, 1997.

¹² Zingraff M. T., Leiter J., Myers K. A. Johnson M. C., "Child maltreatment and youthful problem behavior", *Criminology*, 31, 1993, 173-202.

¹³ Stouthamer-Loeber, Wei, Homish and Loeber, Ibidem.

¹⁴ Hawkins J. D., Herrenkohl T., Farrington D.P., Brewer D., Catalano R. F. & Harachi T., "A review of predictors of youth violence", In Loeber R. & Farrington D. P. (Eds.), *Serious and violent juvenile offenders: Risk factor and successful interventions*,

Similar factors have been found to be related with maltreatment; for example, in various studies, young / early motherhood¹⁵, parental stress¹⁶, parental low level of education¹⁷, parental substance abuse, crime or mental health problems¹⁸.

Many neglectful and rejecting parents are not sufficiently voluntary to take the responsibility of being a parent, besides they wish to pass this responsibility onto others. These parents' parental attitudes resemble that of the cuckoo. These birds do not have the capacity to raise their offspring. They leave their eggs in other birds' nests and run away. Their offspring grow up in the care of step-parents¹⁹.

There are indirect research studies that rather than investigate the relationship between these two

CA, Sage publishers, 1998, 106-146; Lipsey M. W., Derzon J. H., "Predictors of violent or serious delinquency in adolescence or early adulthood: A synthesis of longitudinal research", In Loeber R. & Farrington D. P. (Eds.), *Serious and violent juvenile offenders: Risk factors and successful interventions*, CA, Sage Publishers, 1998, pp. 86- 105.

¹⁵ Lee B. J. & George R. M., "Poverty, early child bearing and child maltreatment: A multinomial analysis", *Children and Youth Services Review*, 21, 1999, 755-780.

¹⁶ Holden E. W. & Banez G. A., "Child abuse potential and parenting stress within maltreating families", *Journal of Family Violence*, 11, 1996, 1-12.

¹⁷ Whipple E. E. & Webster-Stratton C., "The role of parental stress in physically abusive families", *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 15, 1991, 279- 291.

¹⁸ Ammerman R. T., Kolko D. J., Kirisci L., Blackson T. C. & Dawes M.A., "Child abuse potential in parents with histories of substance use disorder", *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 23, 1999, 225-1238; Famularo R., Kintscheff R. & Fenton T., "Parental substance abuse and the nature of child maltreatment", *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 16, 1992, 475-483; Miller B. V., Fox B. R. & Garcia-Beckwith L., "Intervening in severe physical child abuse cases: Mental health, legal, and social services", *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 23, 1999, 905-914; Moore J. & Finkelstein N. "Parenting services for parents affected by substance abuse", *Child Welfare*, 80, 2001, 221-238.

¹⁹ Iwaniec D., *The emotionally abused and neglected child*, UK, John Wiley, 1996.

variables (poor monitoring and child maltreatment) directly, provide indirect proof of the relationship between them. Poor monitoring is related with harsh discipline²⁰. Harsh discipline on the other hand is related with physical abuse²¹. Well monitored youngsters tend to be less aggressive²², and delinquent²³, make friends with delinquent peers less²⁴ and have less contact with the police²⁵.

Present study does not examine how maltreatment and delinquency related social control concept predicts delinquency, as in many previous studies. This study aims to scrutinize the possible associations between parental control and maltreatment experience and thus provide a basis for prevention of poor parental control, which is a negative familial factor, because interventions that

aim to reduce the impact of negative familial factors can decrease both maltreatment and delinquency.

²⁰ Kilgore K., Snyder J. & Lentz C., "The contribution of parental discipline, parental monitoring and school risk to early-onset conduct problems in African American boys and girls", *Developmental Psychology*, 36(6), 2000, 835-845.

²¹ Greenwald R. L., Bank L., Reid J. B. & Knutson J. F., "A discipline-mediated model of excessively punitive parenting", *Aggressive Behavior*, 23(4), 1997, 259-280.

²² Carlo G., Raffaelli M., Liabre D. J. & Meyer K. A., "Why are girls less physically aggressive than boys? Personality and parenting mediators of physical aggression", *Sex Roles*, 40(9-10), 1999, 711-729; Colder C. R., Mott J., Levy S. & Flay B., "The relation of perceived neighborhood danger to childhood aggression: A test of mediating mechanisms", *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 28(1), 2000, 83-103.

²³ Lavoie F., Hebert M., Tremblay R., Vitaro F., Vezina L. & McDuff P., "History of family dysfunction and perpetration of dating violence by adolescent boys: A longitudinal study", *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 30(5), 2002, 375-383; Loeber R. & Farrington D. P., *Serious and violent juvenile offenders: Risk factors and successful interventions*, CA, Sage, 1998.

²⁴ Brendgen M., Vitaro F. & Bukowski W. M. "Stability and variability of adolescents' affiliation with delinquent friends: Predictors and consequences". *Social Development*, 9(2), 2000, 205-225.

²⁵ Stattin, H. & Kerr, M. "Parental monitoring: A reinterpretation". *Child Development*, 71(4), 2000, 1072-1085.

1. Method.

1.1. Participants.

The participants of the study are 251 adolescents in high schools in Istanbul. Of

these 251 students, 130 students are female and 121 are male. Further detail concerning the study group is provided in Table 1.

Demographic Characteristics	F	%
<u>Gender</u>		
Girls	130	51.8
Boys	121	48.2
TOTAL	251	100
<u>Age</u>		
14	72	28.7
15	92	36.7
16	48	19.1
17	26	10.4
18 and older	13	5.2

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Participants.

1.2 Measurements.

“Parental Control Scales”²⁶ are used to determine to what extent the adolescents’ parents control them directly or indirectly. There are 8 subscales of the Maternal Relationship Scale (MRS) and the Paternal Relationship Scale (PRS). Of these, “Norm Regulation”, “Monitoring”, and “Home Rules” comprise the *Direct Control* dimensions and “Close Communication / Self Disclosure and Sharing”, “Sensitivity”, “Co-Activity”, “Love and Trust”, and “Meeting Expectations” comprise the *Indirect Control* dimensions of the scale.

The “Home Rules” dimension is present in only the PRS. Other items that comprise the MRS and the PRS may differ. The MRS has 35 items and the PRS has 37 items. The answer sheet of the scale, which has 39 items, is

divided into two columns, for answers to be marked about each parent. Beside each question’s number, there are five answer options (5=always, 4=often, 3=sometimes, 2=rarely, 1=never).

Participants report the extent of what they live with each of their parents with these options. The highest and lowest points that can be obtained from the MRS and PRS scales are 175-35 and 200-37 respectively. High points on MRS and PRS shows the parent(s) have high control over the adolescent and the relationship between them is positive.

The researcher has developed a survey to obtain information on certain demographic characteristics and physical and emotional abuse and neglect experiences. The questions in this survey are handled under these topics: gender, age, number of siblings, any experience of physical abuse (beating) by parents until this age, the frequency of the physical abuse experience (beating) if any (always, often, sometimes, rarely),

²⁶ Kaner, 2000, Ibidem.

any experience of psychological/emotional maltreatment imposed by mother's or father's behavior until this age (can be any of: disapproving the child, treating the child like a baby, keeping the child away from the family, humiliating the child, terrorizing the child, preventing the child's involvement in activities outside home, forcing the child to commit crime, forcing the child to earn money, using the child as a servant at home, not being together with the child unless necessary, not sharing anything with the child, expecting adult behavior from the child, having unrealistic expectations of success from the child) and the frequency of the emotional abuse experience if any (always, often, sometimes, rarely).

Previous research point out that the strongest association between maltreatment and aggressive and delinquent behavior appears to exist for physical abuse and neglect rather than sexual abuse and other types of maltreatment²⁷, the present survey does not contain any questions on any experience of sexual abuse. At the end of the questionnaire, there are 4 questions that determine any neglectful behavior of the parents on nutrition, education, good care and protection from dangers from the outside world. The answers to these questions are marked on a 5 option scale (5=always, 4=often, 3=sometimes, 2=rarely, 1=never).

2.Results.

2.1.The Frequencies and Percentages Related With Maltreatment Experiences.

²⁷ Maxfield, M., & Widom, C. "The cycle of violence: revisited six years later". *Archives of Pediatric Adolescent Medicine*, 150, 1996, 390-395.

65.7% (n=165) of the participants have stated that they've been beaten by their parents. Of these 165, 83.6% have stated that they've been beaten "rarely". 29.9% (n=75) of the participants have stated that they've been emotionally abused. Of these, 56% have stated that they've been "sometimes" emotionally abused (Table 2). Because experiences of neglect have been collected on a scale, separate percentages are obtained for separate experiences (Table 3).

Experience of Emotional Abuse	F	%
Non-emotionally abused	176	70.1
Emotionally abused	75	29.9
Rarely	21	28
Sometimes	42	56
Often	2	2.7
Always	10	13.3
TOTAL	75	100
Physical Abuse	F	%
Non-physically abused	86	34.3
Physically abused	165	65.7
Rarely	138	83.64
Sometimes	22	13.33
Often	2	1.21
Always	3	1.82
TOTAL	165	100

Table 2: *Frequencies of Physical (Beating) and Emotional Abuse.*

Neglectful Experiences	Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Often		Always	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
My parent does not care enough my nutrition	167	66.5	44	17.5	16	6.4	9	3.6	15	6.0
My parent does not care enough my education	159	63.3	33	13.1	24	9.6	16	6.4	19	7.6
My parent does not good care of me	182	72.5	29	11.6	15	6.0	7	2.8	18	7.2
My parent does not protect me from the outside world dangers	168	66.9	47	18.7	11	4.4	5	2.0	20	8.0

Table 3: *Frequencies of Neglectful Experiences.*

2.1. Results Related With Gender.

It has been found by the chi-square test that there is no relationship between gender and physical abuse (beating). On the other hand there is significant relationship between gender and emotional abuse. Girls had more emotional abuse experience than boys [$\chi^2(1)= 6.38, p<.05$]. T- test revealed that on the MRS and PRS, only the *Maternal Direct Control* subscale scores

differentiate with gender [$t(249)= 2.46, p<.05$]. Girls ($X=29.5$) had more maternal direct control than boys ($X=28$).

2.2. Results Related With Age.

A one-way ANOVA on the MRS and PRS's total scores revealed significant effect of age only for PRS [$F(4-246)=4.51, p<.01$]. The LSD post hoc

test revealed that 14 year old adolescents ($X=145.93$) report more paternal control than 15 year old ($X=137.17$), 16 year old ($X=128.58$), 17 year old ($X=127.5$), and 18 year old and older ($X=126.07$) students.

2.3. Results on Physical Abuse (Beating) and Parental Control.

The results of all subscales, except the *Maternal Direct Control Subscale* vary in in terms of being physically abused. Adolescents not subjected to physical abuse have reported higher scores on the total MRS (except the maternal direct control subscale), the total PRS, the maternal and the paternal indirect and paternal direct control

subscales, in other words parental control over these adolescents is high and they believe that their relationship with their parents is positive (Table 4).

2.4. Results on Emotional Abuse and Parental Control.

Adolescents not experienced emotional abuse have scored higher points on the total MRS and PRS, paternal, maternal direct control and paternal, maternal indirect control subscales, in other words, parental control over these adolescents is high and they believe that their relationship with their parents is positive (Table 5).

Parental Control Scales	Physical Abuse (Beating)	n	X	S	Df	t
MRS	Non-physically Abused	86	126.6	20.08	249	2.35*
	Physically Abused	165	119.69	21.41		
PRS	Non-physically Abused	86	145.01	25.10	249	3.63**
	Physically Abused	165	132.01	27.78		
Maternal indirect	Non-physically Abused	86	96.86	16.71	249	2.40*
	Physically Abused	165	91.24	18.01		
Paternal indirect	Non-physically Abused	86	98.00	19.24	249	3.66**
	Physically Abused	165	88.03	21.08		
Paternal direct	Non-physically Abused	86	47.01	8.66	249	2.48*
	Physically Abused	165	43.98	9.40		

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

Table 4: Differences in Parental Control Scales for Physically Abused and Non-physically Abused.

Parental Control Scales	Emotional Abuse	n	X	S	Df	t
MRS	Non-emotionally Abused	176	125.78	18.51	249	4.57**

	Emotionally Abused	75	112.94	24.18		
PRS	Non-emotionally Abused	176	143.86	23.93	249	7.13**
	Emotionally Abused	75	119.10	27.80		
Maternal indirect	Non-emotionally Abused	176	96.52	14.97	249	4.87**
	Emotionally Abused	75	85.29	21.08		
Maternal direct	Non-emotionally Abused	176	29.25	4.88	249	2.40*
	Emotionally Abused	75	27.65	4.68		
Paternal indirect	Non-emotionally Abused	176	96.65	18.22	249	6.50**
	Emotionally Abused	75	79.22	22.01		
Paternal direct	Non-emotionally Abused	176	47.21	8.61	249	6.15**
	Emotionally Abused	75	39.88	8.70		

**p<.01, *p<.05

Table 5: *Differences in Parental Control Scales for Emotionally Abused and Non-emotionally Abused.*

2.5. Results on Neglect and Parental Control.

The medians of the 4 likert type questions is calculated and a median value of 5 and over is accepted as high level of neglect and a median value of less than 5 as low level of neglect. Looking from the perspective of “neglect”, for all

subscales, the adolescents with low scores for neglect believe that their parents’ control over them is higher and their relationship with their parents is more positive (Table 6) in comparison with the adolescents with higher scores for neglect.

Parental Control Scales	Neglectful Experiences	n	X	S	Df	t
MRS	Lower	122	127.54	18.53	249	4.20**
	Higher	129	116.65	22.17		
PRS	Lower	122	143.27	25.63	249	3.91**
	Higher	129	130.03	27.84		
Maternal indirect	Lower	122	97.67	15.08	249	4.02**
	Higher	129	88.91	19.04		
Maternal direct	Lower	122	29.86	4.80	249	3.52**
	Higher	129	27.74	4.73		
Paternal indirect	Lower	122	95.63	19.76	249	3.12**
	Higher	129	87.48	21.38		
Paternal direct	Lower	122	47.63	8.56	249	4.52**
	Higher	129	42.54	9.23		

**p<.01

Table 6: *Differences in Parental Control Scales for Higher and Lower Levels of Neglectful Experiences.*

3. Discussion.

According to the results of this study, girls perceive their mothers' direct control over them more than boys do. This finding consistent with previous research findings that girls are controlled more than boys, especially by their mothers²⁸. Research shows us girls are controlled more, monitored more, and are more attached to their parents²⁹.

Girls are experienced higher levels of emotional abuse than boys. The abuse literature on the use of violence toward adolescents shows the gender variable is evaluated with contradictory findings. Some studies have found that the perceived level of emotional abuse does not differ according to gender³⁰. Other studies have found that boys

perceive higher levels of emotional abuse than girls³¹. In this study, one of the reasons the perceived levels of emotional abuse is higher for girls than for boys may be that this abusive experience is not evaluated with a scale as multidimensional as in other studies.

The results of this research revealed that physical, emotional abuse and neglect experiences and parental control are in association with each other. Physically and emotionally maltreated adolescents are simultaneously under less parental control and their relationship with their parents is more negative than non maltreated peers'. These findings support Wall et al's opinion³² that maltreatment is related with low levels of monitoring and low levels monitoring is related with violent behavior and criminality. This data shows us juvenile delinquency and maltreatment experiences should be handled and examined in a family environment and family functionality context.

The causal mechanisms related to the risk factors that cause antisocial outcomes are less well established³³. It is not sufficient to focus solely on parental control in these studies. We should dwell on which familial and social contexts increase and decrease parental control³⁴. Studies performed on a cultural basis should focus on protective factors

²⁸ Kaner, 2001, Ibidem; Cernkovich S. A. & Giordano P. C., "Family relationships and delinquency", *Criminology*, 25(2), 1987, 295-321; Singer S. I. & Levine M., "Power control theory, gender and delinquency: A partial replication with additional evidence on the effects of pers", *Criminology*, 26(4), 1988, 627-647.

²⁹ Giordano P. C. & Cernkovich S. A., "Gender and antisocial behavior", In Stoff, Breiling J. and Maser J. D. (Eds.), *Handbook of antisocial behavior*, New York, Wiley, 1997, 496- 510; Svensson R., "Shame as a consequence of the parent-child relationship", *European Journal of Criminology*, 1(4), 2004, 477-504; Wall E. A., Barth P. R., and The Nscaw Research Group, "Aggressive and delinquent behavior of maltreated adolescents: Risk factors and gender differences", *Stress, Trauma, and Crisis*, 8, 2005, 1-24.

³⁰ Ismen E., *Duygusal istismarin liseli ergenlerin kendini kabul seviyelerine etkisi*, Unpublished Master Thesis, Istanbul University, Istanbul, 1993; Alantar M., *Psychological maltreatment: An attempt of its definition by experts and its assessment among a group of adolescents*, Unpublished Master Thesis, Bogazici University, Istanbul, 1989; Erkman F., *The experience of psychological maltreatment of re-migrant adolescents*, Uluslararası Kültürlere Psikoloji Dernegi 2, Bolgesel Kongresinde sunulan bildiri, Hollanda, 14 sayfa, 1989; Cismeci M., *Further reliability and validity study of the perceptions of psychological maltreatment inventory for adolescence*, Unpublished Master Thesis, Bogazici University, Istanbul, 1995; Tasdelen N., *Examination of the effects of perceived psychological maltreatment of mothers on adolescent's self concept, emotional and behavioral problems and academic achievement*,

Unpublished Master Thesis, Bogazici University, Istanbul, 1995.

³¹ Kirimsoy, 2003, Ibidem.

³² Wall et al., Ibidem.

³³ Farrington, P., D. "Childhood origins of antisocial behavior." *Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy*, 12, 2005, 177-190.

³⁴ Perrone, D., Sullivan, J., C., Pratt, C., T., Margaryan, S. "Parental efficacy, self-control, and delinquency: Test of general theory of crime on a nationally representative sample of youth". *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 48(3), 2004, 298-312.

as well as risk factors. Parents should be supported and informed of effective parental methods (group work, seminars, etc.). Research and interventions in these directions will provide us with steps to prevent both delinquency and experiences of maltreatment.

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