The relationship between Peer attachment styles and identity styles in adolescence

Introduction: Achieving a coherent identity is useful in various fields of life and several factors are also involved. Therefore, identification of factors influencing identity styles in students is essential.

Objectives: The purpose of the present study was to determine relationship between Peer attachment styles (degree of mutual trust, quality of communication, and extent of anger and alienation) and identity styles (informational, normative, and diffuse-avoidant) in adolescence in 2012.

Method and Materials: In this descriptive and cross-sectional study 286 students (182 males and 177 females) who were selected using a randomized stratified multi-stage method from among students of high schools in Brijand. Data were collected by demographic questionnaire, Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (IPPA) and Berzonsky Identity Styles Inventory (ISI). The obtained data was analyzed by SPSS software (V: 18), chi-square and correlation at the significant level P<0.05.

Results: Direct relationship between degree of mutual trust and identity styles (informational, normative, and diffuse-avoidant) were found. There was also a significant relationship between extent of anger and alienation and identity styles (informational, normative, and diffuse-avoidant). There was direct relationship between quality of communication and informational, normative styles.

Conclusion: With regard to the relationship between Peer attachment styles and identity styles in adolescence and role of peers in their identity formation, proper planning is needed to be done on adolescent social and cultural activities.

Key words: Peer attachment, identity styles, adolescence.