Introduction

The interparental conflict is one of the stressful events of life that is considered as a potential threat for the healthy development of children and adolescents. According to the human development exchange theory (1991), children and adolescents are not passive in their development process and are influenced by the family context. The cognitive frame based on context (Fosco) is one of the patterns that emphasizes on the active role of the individuals and states that the cognitive appraisal has a basic role in interpretation of the next conflict and maladaptation. On this basis, it seems that the conflict and cognitive appraisal of conflict have a basic role in forming the adolescent identity style.

Purposes

The purpose of this study is to inspect the role of the adolescent’s cognitive appraisal of the interparental conflicts and the style of coping with the family conflicts in forming the adolescent identity style.

Method

For this purpose, a sample of 413 students (the second grade of Yazd high schools) including 210 girls and 203 boys, in the random proportionate stratified sampling method were selected. The adolescents responded to the questionnaire children's perception of interparental conflicts (CPIC) scale and the questionnaire of Brozenski identity styles (ISI-6) and the mothers responded to the questionnaire of Oleari overt hostility. This research is a correlative one and the Regression equation was used to analyze the data.

Results

The findings show the meaningful relation of cognitive analysis of the parents conflicts and the emotion-oriented coping style (in two ways: the mental involvement and avoidance) and also meaningful relationship between these two variables with adolescent identity styles. Also the mediating role of the emotion-oriented coping in the relationship of negative cognitive appraisal of the parental conflicts with the diffuse-avoidant identity style.

Conclusion

The results in the form of Cognitive-Contextual Framework, Stress-Appraisal-Coping Theory and Developmental Systems Perspective in child psychopathology, confirm the independent and interactional role of two risk factors, negative appraisal of conflict and emotion-oriented coping style, in predicting the styles of identity.