

Social-emotional Wellbeing in Low SES Turkish Children with Chronic Orthopedic Disability



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Introduction

• Studies revealed that children and adolescents with chronic physical disabilities display high levels of social and behavioral problems (Kim & Kang, 2003; Pitt et al., 2009). Social-emotional difficulties in the youth with orthopedic disability are not only related with the severity of their disability but also with their parents' stress, support they receive, and child rearing attitudes.

Aim:

• The present study aims to shed light on social-emotional functioning of Turkish youth with orthopedic disability. It investigates the role of personal (e.g., severity of the disability, number of operations) and family related (e.g., stress, support, parenting goals) factors in children's social competence.

Method

Participants

• 105 children (53 males) with orthopedic disability and their mothers living in 17 different cities of Turkey.

Children	Age range: 11 months to 14.5 years ($M_{age} = 7,7$ years ; $SD = 3.5$)
	22% had another chronic health problem (e.g., hearth or kidney problems)
	15% had a diagnosed developmental disorder (e.g., ADHD, learning disorders)
	71% had congenital orthopedic disease, however 33% did not receive treatment on time
	43% had two or more operations
	26% had at least one family member with orthopedic disability
Mothers	34% were born within a kin marriage
	Age range: 18 to 51 years ($M_{age} = 34.2$; $SD = 6.8$)
	93% were housewives; 6% were unskilled workers
	13% were illiterate; 53% were primary school graduates
	69% had household income lower than 1000TL (535 \$); 26% had household income 1000-2000TL (535 to 1070 \$)
57% lived in a city, 43% lived in county or village	

Measures

Social-emotional Competence:

Social Competence and Behavior Evaluation- 30 (LaFreniere & Dumas, 1996) Social Competence (7 items) $\alpha = .69$

Parenting Goals:

Rank order of Parental Values Scale (Schaefer & Edgerton, 1985) Child-Oriented Goals (7 items) $\alpha = .65$
Parent-Oriented Goals (9 items) $\alpha = .78$

Maternal Stress:

Parenting Daily Hassles Scale (Crnic & Greenberg, 1990) Intensity of Stress (20 items) $\alpha = .89$

Severity of Orthopedic Disability:

Gross Motor Function Classification System- GMFS (Palisano, 1997)

Support:

Index of Perceived Social Support (from friends) (Henderson et al., 1978) 10 items $\alpha = .90$
Support from the family 9 items $\alpha = .91$

Results

- Child's age, number of operations the child had, and child's age at the first operation were not significantly related to child's social-emotional competence.
- Girls ($M = 2.7$; $SD = .64$) were found to have higher social-emotional competence than boys ($M = 2.4$, $SD = .64$); $F(1, 103) = 5.30$, $p < .05$.

Table 1
Zero order correlations among variables ($N = 105$)

	Social-emotional Competence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Family SES	.02	-						
2. Number of other chronic health problems of the child	-.19*	-.05	-					
3. Severity of the orthopedic disability	-.21*	-.04	.10	-				
4. Maternal stress	-.22*	-.21*	-.06	.03	-			
5. Child-oriented goals	.23*	-.00	-.02	.05	.03	-		
6. Parent-oriented goals	.22*	.20*	.17+	-.06	-.19*	.38***	-	-
7. Social support from family	.22*	.16	-.11	-.25**	-.06	.31***	.28**	-
8. Social support from friends	.05	.15	.08	.04	-.10	.17+	.07	.23*

+ $p < .10$, * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

Backwards regression analysis:

- DV: Social-emotional Competence
- IVs: 1) Severity of the orthopedic disability 2) Child's sex 3) Number of other chronic health problems of the child 4) Child-oriented goals 5) Parent-oriented goals 6) Maternal stress 7) Social support from family

Table 2
Regression analysis predicting social competence ($N = 105$)

	R	Adjusted R ²	B	β
Model 4				
Severity of the orthopedic disability			-.18	-.22*
Child's sex			-.30	-.23**
Child-oriented goals			.47	.28**
Maternal stress	.46	.18	-.15	-.19**

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

Discussion

- The results indicated that girls had higher social-emotional competence than boys. This finding is consistent with the literature.
- Parenting stress and the severity of disability were two factors significantly associated with lower levels of social-emotional competence in the Turkish youth with chronic orthopedic disability. Different from the findings in the literature on typically-developing children, maternal stress was not associated with support perceived to be received from the family or friends. And neither the support from the family nor from friends did moderate the influence of maternal stress on child's social-emotional competence.
- Among the long-term socialization goals examined, child-oriented goals predicted child's social-emotional competence more strongly. This study reveals that valuing child's personal development and psychological well-being is helpful for social-emotional development of Turkish children with orthopedic disability.