Attachment & Hope of Institutionalized and Reunified Children in Ghana

Bryan A. Teuscher
Brigham Young University - Provo, bryanteuscher@gmail.com

Jini Roby
Brigham Young University - Provo, jini_roby@byu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub

The Annual Mary Lou Fulton Mentored Research Conference showcases some of the best student research from the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences. The mentored learning program encourages undergraduate students to participate in hands-on and practical research under the direction of a faculty member. Students create these posters as an aide in presenting the results of their research to the public, faculty, and their peers.

Recommended Citation
http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub/268

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Family, Home, and Social Sciences at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in FHSS Mentored Research Conference by an authorized administrator of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu.
Research Questions

Does attachment influence hope?

- There are over two million children living in orphanage care worldwide.
- Research consistently shows that living in institutions negatively affects children’s ability to create secure attachments.
- Increased hope is related to decreased feelings of depression, anxiety, and loneliness and increased academic achievement, adaptive coping styles, and even improved athletic performance.

How does hope differ between institutionalized and reunified children?

- Many countries have adopted policies which favor family care over institutional care for children.
- Child neglect, most often a feature of many orphanages, has resulted in “significant cognitive delays, increased risk of psychological disorders, and stunted physical growth” in comparison to children in home settings.
- A child’s level of hope may be influenced by the setting in which they grow up, be it orphanage or with their family.

Data & Methods

Sample: 152 institutionalized children (IC) from 13 orphanages and 30 reunified children (RC) aged 8-18

- Social attachment was measured with 14 hypothetical situations asking about attachment figures.
- Hope was measured with the six-item Children’s Hope Scale (CHS)

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLES</th>
<th>Model 1</th>
<th>Model 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attachment</td>
<td>0.196</td>
<td>0.234*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0.112)</td>
<td>(0.108)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>-1.847</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1.126)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.261</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0.199)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siblings in Orphanage</td>
<td>-1.303</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0.722)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>14.386***</td>
<td>11.807***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1.238)</td>
<td>(2.657)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Observations 131 131
R-squared 0.018 0.058
Adjusted R-squared 0.010 0.029

Robust standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.001, * p<0.05

Results (Cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Observations</th>
<th>Mean (Stnd. Error)</th>
<th>Stnd. Dev.</th>
<th>95% Conf. Int.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I C</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>15.22 (0.506338)</td>
<td>6.242556</td>
<td>14.22 16.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R C</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>22.58 (1.036318)</td>
<td>5.772199</td>
<td>20.46 24.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>16.47 (0.498529)</td>
<td>6.743978</td>
<td>15.49 17.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean Difference 7.35696 (1.215352)
95% Conf. Int. 4.959 9.755

Limitations

- Small sample size, especially in the reunified group.
- Data for reunified group still being collected and analyzed.
- Inability to make cross-cultural applications.

Conclusion

- Higher levels of hope are related to increased number of attachment figures in an individuals life.
- Living in an institution is related to significantly lower levels of hope than living in a family setting.
- More research is needed to explore factors contributing to hope differences between institutional and family settings.