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The Mediating Role of Social Problems on the Relationship between Self-Esteem and Distress in Children Exposed to Domestic Violence

The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between social problems and self-esteem in children exposed to domestic violence. Secondary data was used from a previous study of 35 mothers and their children between the ages of six and twelve who had experienced an acute episode of domestic violence. A mediation model (Baron & Kenny, 1986) was run to investigate the mediating role of social problems in the relationship between self-esteem and distress. Social problems did not mediate the relationship, although self-esteem was a significant predictor of distress. The lower the self-esteem, the more distress symptoms a child displayed, whether or not the child was experiencing social problems. Results suggest that interventions aimed at reducing distress symptoms after an episode of domestic violence should pay attention to children's self-esteem.



Poster Number: Session: