

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Topic:             | Case Study: Child Development |
| Type:              | Essay                         |
| Word Count:        | 2072                          |
| Pages:             | 8                             |
| Referencing Style: | Harvard                       |
| Education Level:   | Masters                       |

Case Study

[Name of Student]

[Name of Institution]

[Course]

## Introduction

The development of child is related to the relationship with his mother, his father, the family but also to the social space and cultural and economic contexts that surrounds him (Hartup& Rubin, 2013). The child evolves in interaction with his environment, it is essential to place the child in a plurality of contexts. There is direct link between the development of the young child and his living conditions. Specifically, poor living conditions affect family life, housing, neighbourhood, recreation, access to services, socioeconomic status and psychological dimension. Difficulties related to insecure attachment may have consequences in areas of child development such as social skills, autonomy, cognitive development, behaviour etc. A high quality child care causes cognitive benefits(Hartup& Rubin, 2013). The protective effects of secure attachment minimize subsequent problems and behavioural skills for children.

In the course of this discussion, a case study will be analysed where a girl develops intimacy without building a relationship, which is based on secure attachment, therefore becomes a prostitute in the later part of her career. Through this case study, this paper discusses the role of attachment theory and how it affects the behaviour and leads to poor life choices.

## The Case Study

This is the case of a girl named Sharron. She is the first and the only child of their parents. His father was a petty criminal who, just after Sharron's birth, went to jail due to the charge of a robbery in a house. Her mother Christine was not an educated women but she has to shoulder the responsibility of running the household, for which she became waitress in a small restaurant and bar. Both Sharron and Christine live in a shabby neighbourhood near to

Christine's workplace. As nobody at home to take care of Sharron and so her responsibility was given to Christine's sister.

Christine's sister was not happy with this placement and she returned Sharron back. From then on Sharron was placed to different people and different organizations. In fact she experienced more than 10 placements within first two years of her life. However, when Sharron became two and a half years old, Christine took her to home.

Christine has long duty hours and when she returned home, she was so tired that she could not do anything instead of eating a quick dinner and then retired to bed. She did not have time to talk to her daughter Sharron and to solve the problems she has to face in school. After some time, Christine, in order to reduce the stress and hustle of her job started taking drugs also. Now she had even less time for her daughter.

Sharron grew up in an environment where nobody cares for her and nobody loves her. She never experienced emotional and secure attachment from her parents. Her father, after returning from prison, became an alcoholic who did not do anything except beating her mother.

Sharron had an affair when she was in high school and got pregnant due to which she had been rusticated from School. Her boyfriend forced her to do the abortion after which he left her. Sharron tried to get some job but the jobs which had been offered to her did not appeal her; nevertheless, she did not want to go to her parents' home, so she became a prostitute and lives independently in a rented place.

#### Analysis of Case Study

It is a primary social need of an innate to relate with others. The child's attachment is a second important drive that supports on the primary food needs. It is a universal human need to form close emotional ties to their close ones in times of suffering or stress. The function of the attachment is an adaptive function of both protection and exploration (Holmes, 2014). The mother, or her substitute, is a secure base for the child. The new-born has a repertoire of instinctive behavior such as clinging, sucking, cry, smile that will be used for the benefit of attachment. After 7 months, an open and selective attachment relationship to a privileged person is established. This case study depicts a person (Sharron), who did not get secure emotional attachment from their parents.

The family of Sharron and Christine is a disadvantaged family, living in poor living conditions. It is the primary motivation of the parents to drive their children where they are not gone by breaking the cycle of generational transmission of economic and social insecurity. But to give the equivalent to their children than parents in giving a privileged background, they have to work harder and be more tenacity (Hunter et al., 2016). The case study shows that the poverty is the first destructive factor for the development of Sharron putting the family in a situation of economic survival that results in emotional distress. This case also shows that Christine was in permanent stress related to economic deprivation the family suffers, show less responsiveness to Sharron and adopt educational strategies with a strong control that result in harsher punishments. Christine was more distracted, hostile and aggressive toward Sharron.

According to attachment theory, the mother is usually the first person to hold this function. Nowadays, anyone who engages in social interaction with the child and who is able to meet their needs will likely become an attachment figure. The mother remains the most important figure, followed by the father and then, for most children, a grandparent, another

family member or someone familiar. This indicates that the child has a satisfactory emotional security to fully release the emotions, affects and the skills bases, i.e. 5 bases (sustained visual attention, the impetus to interaction, affiliate behaviours, the ability to reproduce and imitate the structured gesture organization) on which the baby settles and consolidates pipes and regulations necessary for the satisfaction of basic needs, its development, its attachments and its adaptation to the environment (Erdman&Caffery, 2013). This concept of competence-base goes well to enable better identification of problems and malfunctions related to the history and experience of each person (the child himself, mother, father and other familiar partners) and those related to major life events (death, illness, abandonment, abuse, new birth, habitat change ). Unfortunately, in Sharron's case there is no one to find the security of attachment and emotions which creates problems for her in later life.

Similarly, attachment theory can also be applied to the later romantic life of Sharron. The case study reveals that Sharron's behavior in close relationships is shaped by mental representations, whose origins lie in her relationship with her mother and father (Hunter et al., 2016). The degree to which anxiety is experienced by Sharron about being rejected or abandoned, tend to experience low anxiety about this possibility, since she is considered worthy of being loved and cared for.

For its part, the image of the other would be associated with the degree of avoidance that the person manifests about close relationships, so that those who have a positive image in terms of reliability and availability will establish close relations with another. On the contrary, those who have a negative view like unresponsive; they tend to avoid getting involved more closely in the links.

There are four categories of attachment to which underlie two dimensions, anxiety abandonment and avoidance of emotional closeness which combines a positive idea of the person and others; therefore, demonstrating low anxiety and avoidance before the most intimate interpersonal contact; disengaged or avoidant with a positive view of person and others and refusal, thus, manifested high anxiety and low avoidance; concerned, with a negative view of themselves and positively of others, accompanied by high anxiety and low avoidance; and fearful, with both negative view of himself as of others, associated with high anxiety and high avoidance (George & West, 2012).

The above mentioned case study also provides the link between attachment security and quality of relationships, with the degree of satisfaction with the relationship. It shows that there is an association between, Sharron's adult attachment and satisfaction with her boyfriend (Edwards, 2007; Feeney, 2002; Meyers & Landsberger, 2002). The people with higher attachment security described their love as happier, friendly and experiences confidence. They used to experience love as a state that can have ups and downs, but generally it remains constant. In addition, they tended to have longer-term relationships. In contrast, people, with higher attachment anxiety were more likely to experience jealousy, obsession or extreme sexual attraction. Meanwhile, people with high avoidance, such as Sharron described their relationships characterized by fear of proximity and frequent mood swings. Therefore, in unsafe attachment, as in this case, Sharron enjoy less their relationships.

In Sharron's case she has to say that she has never been in love, to not commit and to have low ideals in love. Instead, she tended to report more obsessive concern and emotional dependence on others. Sharron tends to display less care for others and to have more negative for the support of partner expectations, which resulted in lower satisfaction. For example, Cohen

&Eagle (2005) found that people with high attachment anxiety or avoidance reported less consensus, cohesion, emotional expression and global setting in their relationships. In a study, Butzer& Campbell (2008) investigated the association between attachment and both sexually and with relationship satisfaction found that people with high levels of anxiety and avoidance were those who reported lower levels of sexual satisfaction. In addition, it was found that the relationship between sexual and marital satisfaction was higher in people with high attachment anxiety and those couples were anxious attachment. People with high avoidance of sexual satisfaction were not associated.

According to Feeney (2002) found that the relationship between attachment security and relationship satisfaction was tempered by the spouse perceived behavior. Specifically, people such as Sharron, with insecure attachment styles have more reactive and negative behavior towards partners and experienced less satisfaction than people who have secure attachment. This effect is more pronounced in people with fearful attachment (i.e., high anxiety and high avoidance) and those who had longer-lasting marriages. In short, the analysis suggests that there is association between attachment features and sexual satisfaction, being more marked among the insecure styles and lower sexual satisfaction. This association is moderated by the characteristics of the couple.

With regard to differences in sexual satisfaction in the manner of attachment itself, referred to the highest levels of satisfaction obtained by attachment styles. The case study of Sharron is consistent with research which indicates that secure attachment in people tends to experience greater well-being and satisfaction in their relationships (Edwards, 2007; Feeney, 2002). This could be interpreted in the light of the positive models of self and others underlying attachment and styles that could lead the pair is experienced as respectful, responsive and caring

and being more attentive / a to positive relationship (Collins & Feeney 2004). Similarly, people with secure attachment styles have relationships with better communication, which provide greater support to their partners and more constructively resolve conflicts.

### Conclusion

This paper discusses the attachment theory in context of a specific case study of Sharon who had a deprived childhood and did not receive emotional satisfaction and secure attachment either from parents or from her lover. The analysis of the case study depicts that there is a parallel between infant attachment and caregiver attachment in relationships, expressed the desire to maintain physical proximity, confidence in the attachment figure for comfort and vision of this as a source of security in times of stress. However, adult attachment differs in various infant attachment aspects: the relationships in the nature of the relationship is reciprocal, needs affective previously met by caregivers gradually transferred to the significant in adulthood and adult attachment is manifested in couples and the quality of relationships and affect regulation in situations of threat or conflict.

The sexual and relationship satisfaction varies with attachment style people and it is higher in people with secure attachment. Thus, Sharron with her partner had lower satisfaction than those who have secure attachment with their partner. In other words, Avoidant attachment was inversely associated with satisfaction for both the partners while Sharron's attachment is was inversely associated with satisfaction for her only.

Hence, this case study and its analysis revealed that the importance and relevance of incorporating a relational perspective in understanding relationship satisfaction, as this not

only has to do with the characteristics, but also with those of the couple and what link emerges in that space.

## References

- Butzer, B. and Campbell, L., 2008. Adult attachment, sexual satisfaction, and relationship satisfaction: A study of married couples. *Personal Relationships*, 15, 141-154.
- Cohen, A. and Eagle, M., 2005. Prediction of relational functioning from attachment in adult romantic relationships. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 53, 1331-1333
- Collins, N. L. and Feeney, B. C., 2004. Working models of attachment shape perceptions of social support: Evidence from experimental and observational studies. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 87, 363-383
- Edwards, J. K., 2007. *Relationship satisfaction: The role of attachment, conflict, empathy and forgiveness*. Doctoral Thesis. Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
- Erdman, P. and Caffery, T. eds., 2013. *Attachment and family systems: Conceptual, empirical and therapeutic relatedness*. Routledge.
- Feeney, J. A., 2002. Attachment, marital interaction and relationship satisfaction: A diary study. *Personal Relationships*, 9, 39-55
- George, C. and West, M.L., 2012. *The Adult Attachment Projective Picture System: attachment theory and assessment in adults*. Guilford Press.
- Hartup, W.W. and Rubin, Z. eds., 2013. *Relationships and development*. Psychology Press.
- Holmes, J., 2014. *The search for the secure base: Attachment theory and psychotherapy*. Routledge.
- Hunter, J., Maunder, R. and Le, T.L., 2016. Fundamentals of Attachment Theory. In *Improving Patient Treatment with Attachment Theory* (pp. 9-25). Springer International Publishing.
- Meyers, S. A. and Landsberger, S. A., 2002. Direct and indirect pathways between adult attachment style and marital satisfaction. *Personal Relationships*, 9, 159-172