



RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE PRESUMPTION OF CHILDHOOD PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMAS ON PARENTAL ATTITUDES

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ABSTRACT

In order to examine the effect of parents' own childhood traumas during their childhood and adolescence on their child raising attitude; a set of data was collected from 902 parents with children between the ages 2-6 who attend to preschool classes under the primary schools of Ministry of National Education Council, independent kindergartens and private preschool education institutions. The study used Childhood Psychologic Trauma Questionnaire and Parental Attitudes Scale; the collected data was analyzed with IBM SPSS 23.0 program. Frequency and percentage rate were used for categorical variables and regression analysis was used in order to detect the reasonable relation between the dependent and independent variables. Regression analysis had used in order to detect the relation between dependent and independent variables. At the end of the research, it was found that there is a significant relation between the parents' child raising attitudes and their own childhood traumas. According to this, these were found that emotional and physical abuse predict democratic and overprotective attitude, emotional neglect and physical abuse predict authoritarian attitude; physical abuse, emotional neglect and sexual abuse predict permissive attitude significantly in a positive dimension.

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INTRODUCTION

The most important step of development in society is raising people who are healthy psychologically and physically. The smallest structural unit of society, family, is the most important factor of that. The communication and interaction between parents and their children passes to next generations like genetic codes. Parental attitudes are the fundamental factors about that communication and interaction between them. Attitude is something that attributed to an individual and it carves out the emotions, ideas and behaviours about a psychological object. Attitudes are invisible by themselves but they show themselves by behaviours which they give way to. We get most of our attitude from others. Parents are first source of the attitudes which composed by their children (Kağıtçıbaşı, 2006, 101-124). The behavior patterns which parents use against their child takes a significant role about child's psychological harmony. Positive and supportive attitudes of parents contributes their child's development negative and restrictive attitudes cause psychological problems (Seven, 2008, 99).

All parents have some obvious or latent ideals for their children regarding their knowledge, ethos, behavior. They use lots of different strategies for impelling them to achieve their aims (Mussen, Conger, Kagan and Huston, 1984). Attitudes are just another way for using these strategies. People do not born with attitudes, they get them later on. In other words; cultural values, forms of beliefs, education levels and socio-economic standards are factors of parents attitudes (Kağıtçıbaşı, 2006, 101-124). Personality structure is another factor of it and it is not something independent from former experiences. Childhood psychological trauma, as a deeply affecting phenomenon in former experiences, is the most severe violence type which effects individual's psychological and social development (Yöyen, 2017, 267-282). childhood psychological traumas which has five sub-dimensions is the common name of physical emotional sexual abuse and physical and emotional neglect which happened under 17 (Bernstein, et al., 2003. 169-190). The problem of this study; are childhood psychological trauma and sub-dimensions of trauma predict parental attitudes?

Literature

Childhood psychological trauma is a general name for physical, emotional, sexual abuse and physical and emotional

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neglect during childhood and young adolescence. All of the conscious behaviors against the 18 under individuals which gives harm to physical, emotional, mental and social development of them named as abuse and not giving general needs to them is named as neglect (Yöyen, 2016,66-67). Physical neglect occurs when the needs of child or adolescence who is under 18 like health, security, hygiene and suiting up needs do not provide by parents or caregivers (Taner and Gökler, 2004, 82-86). Physical abuse is having physical injury or getting harm by accident free way or being do not prevented from harmful situations by parents or caregivers of a child or adolescence who is under 18 (Acehan, Bilen, Oğuzhan, Gülen, Avcı and İçme,2013, 591-614). Emotional neglect is the child's insufficient getting of love, kindness, care by emotional and cognitive way from his/hers parents or care giver (Glaser, 2002, 697-714). Emotional abuse means hurting the feelings of child and adolescence.

It can show itself in different manners. Emotional abuse is hurting feeling of child by shouting, refusing, humiliating, cursing, leaving alone, screaming, terrorization, threatening, not providing emotional needs, expecting responsibility over the age, making distinction between siblings, disregarding, being sarcastic speeches, over pressuring, setting up authority, nicknaming, dependencing, overprotectioning (Arslan, 2016, 202-210). Lastly sexual abuse is; using a child who have not completed his/hers development process by an adult for providing his/hers own desires and needs with treat or deception (Norman, Byambaa, Rumna, Butchart, Scott and Vos, 2012, 1-31). Parental attitudes have an important effect on their child's personality formation. Parents become identification models for their children. Children show similar behavior and attitudes. If parents have healthy attitudes their children will have an independent personality, will be happy and have self-confidence (Yavuzer, 2016, 26-27).

There are two principal elements to determine parental attitudes. First one is the degree of response of parents to children's needs; the second one is parents' demands, expectations and control over the child (Maccoby and Martin, 1983, 1-101). In this context there are four attitudes from parents to child. In democratic attitude, family accepts child as an independent individual. They encourage child to create an independent personality and express his/hers ideas clearly (Dursun, 2010, 32-33). Authoritarian attitude is an attitude in which parents do not accept their child as an independent individual and they think like they own the child. Controlling the child and organizing his/hers behaviors to their own standards has a huge importance for authoritarian parents. There is no intimacy and love in the force that adults use against the child. They do not communicate clearly with child because they think that adult world is different from child's (Baumrind, 1996, 887-907). The parents who have over-protective attitude think that child cannot survive by himself/herself so he/her needs persistent protection. Parents with this attitude do lots of tasks of their child to prevent he/she from hardship, tiredness and sadness. Therewithal they attach to their children by such a deep emotional attachment and they become integrated so they never want to accept that their child became a grown-up or matured (Snyder, Stoolmiller, Molloy and Yamamoto, 2003, 335-360). Permissive attitude contains issues like, looking with favour on everything child does, giving too much independence and indulging the child. Permissive parents have low expectations about proper behavior from their children. They do not need their child to obey the rules. So they

do not improve a discipline way for that. They have no idea about what they expect from their children in the future. In this attitude level of comfort is high whereas level of discipline is low (Ogelman and Önder, 2011, 89-105).

METHODS

Universe of this research consists of 902 parents who have children between 2-6 and who study in preschool classes which are in primary schools or independent kindergartens or private preschool education institutions of Ministry of National Education, Istanbul City National Education Council, between 2016-2017 academic year. This study carried out with relational search method which belongs semi-structured surveys. The data of this study collected from 902 parents who have children between 2-6 and who study in preschool classes which are in primary schools or independent kindergartens or private preschool education institutions of Ministry of National Education, Istanbul City National Education Council. In order to examine the effect of parents' own childhood traumas during their childhood and adolescents on their child rising attitude. 67.83% of parents who attended to surgery are women and 32.17% of them are men. With the examination of marital status distribution it founded that 94.71% of attendants are married, 5.3% of them are separated. With the examination of educational status distribution it founded that 36.94% of attendants are graduated from high school, 30.13% of them are graduated from university and 12.95% of them graduated from pre-license. Data of surgery collected from Childhood Trauma Questionnaire and Parental Attitude Scale.

Childhood Trauma Questionnaire: The questionnaire had developed by Bernstein and his friends (2012) and it adapted to Turkish. Validity and reliability study conducted by Şar and his friends and Cronbach Alpha value detected as 0.93. In this study childhood trauma questionnaires reliability coefficient founded as 0.87. Childhood trauma sub questionnaires' reliability coefficient founded as 0.66 and 0.77. The questionnaire which has 28 items has 5 sub-dimensions; sexual, physical, emotional abuse and emotional and physical neglect. All the items will be evaluated by using 5 likert scales (Güneri Yöyen, 2017, 267-282).

Parental Attitude Scale: This scale had prepared by researchers to evaluate parents' child rising behaviors who have children between 2-6. The scale prepared in the form of likert. Prepared items are about behavior styles and in front of the every behavior style there are 5 options which differs by frequency rate. So it made parents who answered the questions of scale to express how often they do the things which mentioned in scale. For detecting the reliability of sub-dimensions, internal consistency coefficients examined and Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficients have found between 0.74-0.83 (Demir and Şendil, 2008, 15-25). In this study, reliability coefficients of the scale have found between 0.861 and 0.693 (moderately reliable and highly reliable). SPSS 23 package programme had used for this study which is in relational search model for determining demographic features frequency and percentage used in descriptive statistic method. Internal consistency of the data set determined between 0.861 and 0.693 (moderately reliable and highly reliable) by examining Cronbach Alpha coefficients. The results show that generalizations can be made by these data. It determined that 25.55% of parents are victims of emotional abuse, 99.23% of them are victims of physical abuse, 99.67% of them are victims of sexual abuse and 32.19%

of them are victim of total abuse. besides 37.83% of them are physically neglected, 22.90% of them are emotionally neglected. For comparing two groups, independent t test used and for determining predictive relations regression analysis used. For determining the relation between childhood trauma and parental attitude Pearson correlation analysis used. For determining childhood trauma levels predictive effect on parental attitudes, multiple regression model used which has parental attitude as dependent variable and childhood trauma as independent variable.

RESULTS

Table 1 The Pearson Correlation Analysis for Detecting If There is a Significant Relations Between Childhood Psychological Trauma and Parental Attitude.

As results of Pearson correlation analysis which used for detecting if there is a statically significant relation between childhood traumas and parental attitudes; it determined that there is negative directional relation between emotional abuse level and democratic attitude level ($r = -0,070, p = 0,035$), there is positive dimensional significant relation between authoritarian ($r = -0,070, p = 0,035$) and permissive attitude ($r = 0,200, p = 0,000$). While emotional abuse level rises democratic attitude level gets lower and permissive attitude level gets higher. It determined that there is significant relation between physical abuse level and over protective attitude ($r = -0,097, p = 0,003$) in negative dimensional despite that there is significant relation between physical abuse and authoritarian attitude ($r = 0,223, p = 0,003$) and permissive attitude ($r = 0,170, p = 0,003$) in positive dimension. While physical abuse level increases over protective attitude level decreases and authoritarian attitude level and permissive attitude level increases.

Table 1. The Pearson Correlation Analysis for Detecting If There is a Significant Relations Between Childhood Psychological Trauma and Parental Attitude

		Emotional Abuse	Physical Abuse	Physical Neglect	Emotional Neglect	Sexual Abuse	Total Abuse	Democratic Attitude	Authoritarian Attitude	Over-protective Attitude	Permissive Attitude
Emotional Abuse	r	1	,333**	,366**	,564**	,399**	,789**	-,070*	,204**	-0,019	,200**
	p		0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,035	0,000	0,566	0,000
	N	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902
Physical Abuse	r	,333**	1	,239**	,200**	,365**	,508**	0,016	,223**	-,097**	,170**
	p	0,000		0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,624	0,000	0,004	0,000
	N	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902
Physical Neglect	r	,366**	,239**	1	,478**	,190**	,681**	-,253**	,182**	-,118**	,119**
	p	0,000	0,000		0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
	N	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902
Emotional Abuse	r	,564**	,200**	,478**	1	,174**	,851**	-,230**	,316**	-0,014388447	,298**
	p	0,000	0,000	0,000		0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,666	0,000
	N	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902
Sexual Abuse	r	,399**	,365**	,190**	,174**	1	,475**	-0,023	,137**	-0,040	,199**
	p	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000		0,000	0,482	0,000	0,229	0,000
	N	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902
Total Abuse	r	,789**	,508**	,681**	,851**	,475**	1	-,201**	,328**	-,069*	,301**
	p	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000		0,000	0,000	0,039	0,000
	N	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902	902
Democratic Attitude	r	-,070*	0,016	-,253**	-,230**	-0,023	-,201**	1	-,215**	,316**	0,043
	p	0,035	0,624	0,000	0,000	0,482	0,000		0,000	0,000	0,200
	N	902	902	902	902	902	902	904	904	904	904
Authoritarian Attitude	r	,204**	,223**	,182**	,316**	,137**	,328**	-,215**	1	,130**	,291**
	p	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000		0,000	0,000
	N	902	902	902	902	902	902	904	904	904	904
Over-protective Attitude	r	-0,019	-,097**	-,118**	-0,014	-0,040	-,069*	,316**	-,130**	1	,170**
	p	0,566	0,004	0,000	0,666	0,229	0,039	0,000	0,000		0,000
	N	902	902	902	902	902	902	904	904	904	904
Permissive Attitude	r	,200**	,170**	,119**	,298**	,199**	,301**	0,043	,291**	,170**	1
	p	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,200	0,000	0,000	
	N	902	902	902	902	902	902	904	904	904	904

Table 2. The regression Analysis for Determining Presumption Between Childhood Trauma Level and Democratic Attitude

	Unstandart Coefficient		Standar Coefficient	t	p	CollinearityStatistics	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)	4,568	,072		63,143	,000		
Emotional Abuse	,020	,009	,092	2,297	,022	,626	1,597
Physical Abuse	,024	,011	,075	2,208	,027	,872	1,147
Physical Neglect	-,049	,009	-,211	-5,726	,000	,743	1,345

Table 3. The Regression Analysis for Determining Presumption Between Childhood Trauma and Authoritarian Attitude

	Unstnd. Coefficient		Stnd. Coef.	t	p	Coll. Statistics	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)	1,354	,063		21,507	,000		
Physical Abuse	,053	,010	,167	5,240	,000	,960	1,042
Emotional Neglect	,035	,004	,283	8,888	,000	,960	1,042

Table 4. The Regression Analysis for Determining the Presumption Between Childhood Trauma Level and Overprotective Attitude

	Unstandart Coefficient		Std.Co. Beta	t	p	Coll.Statistics	
	B	Std. Error				Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)	4,046	,088		46,106	,000		
physical abuse	-,029	,013	-,079	-2,301	,022	,933	1,071
Physical neglect	-,036	,011	-,130	-3,407	,001	,750	1,334

Table 5. The Regression Analysis for Determining the Presumption Between the Childhood Trauma Level and Allowing Attitude

	Unstandart Coefficient		Stnandart Coefficient Beta	T	p	Coll.Statistics	
	B	Std. Error				Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)	1,583	,091		17,445	,000		
Physical Abuse	,027	,012	,079	2,298	,022	,833	1,201
Emotional Neglect	,039	,005	,290	8,075	,000	,760	1,316
Sexual Abuse	,057	,015	,132	3,898	,000	,852	1,174

While it determined that physical neglect is related with democratic attitude ($=-0,253,=0,000$) and overprotective attitude ($=-0,118,=0,000$) in negative dimation, it is related with authoritarian attitude ($=0,182,=0,000$) and permissive attitude ($=0,119,=0,000$) significantly in possitive dimation. While physical neglect level increaes, democratic and overprotective attitude levels decreases permissive attitude level increases. It determined that emotional neglect level has a relation with democratic attitude ($=-0,230,=0,000$) in negative dimation and has a relation with authoritarian attitude ($=0,316,=0,000$) and permissive attitude ($=0,298,=0,000$) in possitive dimation. While emotional neglect level increases democratic attitude level decreases authoritarian and permissive attitude level increases.

It determined that sexual abuse level has a significant relation with authoritarian attitude ($=0,137,=0,000$) and permissive attitude ($=0,199,=0,000$) in a possitive dimation. While sexual abuse level decreases, authoritarian and permissive attitude level increases. It determined that there is significant relation between total abuse level and democratic attitude ($=-0,201,=0,000$) and over-protective attitude ($=-0,069,=0,039$) in negative dimation but despite that there is significant relation between authoritarian attitude ($=0,328,=0,000$) and permissive attitude ($=0,301,=0,000$) in possitive dimation. While total abuse level increases democratic and overprotective attitude levels decreases. For determining if the childhood trauma levels are predictive on democratic attitude which is one of parental attitude types, regression analysis had used. It tried to prevent unmeaningful variables out of model by using forward method in regression analysis. For determining if there is a multiple connection problem between independent variables which created for regression analysis VIF and tolerance value calculated. It determined that tolerance value is between 0,826 and 0,743 and VIF value is 1-3, like it wanted to be, and there is no multiple linear connection problem between independent variables. To determine that if independent variables are auto-correleted Durbin What son value calculated and it found as 1,992. It is so close to 2 like it wanted to be, so it determined that there is no auto-correlation problem. In the regression model which has democratic attitude as a dependent variable, emotional abuse ($\beta =0,092, p =0,022$) and physical abuse ($\beta =0,075, p =0,027$) are prectective for dependent variable in possitive dimation. But physical abuse ($\beta =-0,211, p =0,000$) is prectective for dependent variable in negative dimation.

While emotional abuse and physical abuse level increases democratic attitude level increases too and while physical abuse level rises democratic attitude level decreases. The model formed explains 9.3% ($R^2 = 0,093, F =23,034, p =0,000$) of the change in the level of democratic attitude. Regression analysis had used for determining if childhood trauma levels predicts for authotarian attitude which is one of parental attitude types. It tried to prevent unmeaningful variables out of model by using forward method in regression analysis. For determining if there is a multiple directional connection problem between independent variables which created for regression analysis VIF and tolerance value calculated.

It determined that tolerance value is between 0,960 and 0,960 and VIF value is 1-3, like it wanted to be, and there is no multiple linear connection problem between independent variables. To determine that if independent variables are auto-correleted Durbin What son value calculated and it found as 1,869. It is so close to 2 like it wanted to be, so it determined that there is no auto-correlation problem. In the regression model which has the authotarian attitude as a dependent variable physical abuse ($\beta =0,167, p =0,000$) prectectives the dependent variable in possitive dimation and emotional neglect ($\beta =0,283, p =0,000$) prectective the dependent varient in possitive dimation too. While emotional neglect and physical abuse risincreases authotarian attitude level increases too. Created model's explanation power is 12,7% ($R^2 = 0,127, F =65,119, p =0,000$).The 12,7% of change in the level of authoritarian attitude is explaining by created model For determining if childhood trauma levels are predictive for over-protective attitude, which is one of the parental attitude types, regression analysis was used. By using forward method for the regression analysis, meaningless variables are left outside the model. For determining if there is a multiple directional connection problem between independent variables which created for regression analysis VIF and tolerance value were calculated. It was determined that the tolerance values are between 0,750-0,933 and in the desired range VIF values are 1-3; also the independent variables don't seem to have a multiple linear connection problem. To test the autocorrelations in the independent variables, Durbin Watson value was calculated and it showed that the value is 1.883, which is desirably close to 2, proving that there is no autocorrelation problem.

In the regression model where the over-protective attitude is a dependent variable, it's found out that the independent variables; physical abuse ($\beta = -0,079$, $p = 0,022$) and physical neglect ($\beta = -0,130$, $p = 0,001$) presume the dependent variable negatively. As the level of emotional abuse and physical abuse increases, the level of over-protective attitude decreases. The explanatory power of model being 2.2% ($R^2 = 0.022$, $F = 6.758$, $p = 0.000$). The 2.2% of the change of the level of overprotective attitude is explained by the model formed. A regression analysis was made to determine if the childhood trauma levels presume the permissive attitude, which is one of the parental attitude types. By using forward method for the regression analysis, meaningless variables are left outside the model.

To identify if the independent variables of the regression analysis model have a multiple linear connection problem, VIF and tolerance values were calculated. It was determined that the tolerance values are between 0.760 -0.852 and in the desired range VIF values are 1-3; also the independent variables don't seem to have a multiple linear connection problem. To test the autocorrelations in the independent variables, Durbin Watson value was calculated and it showed that the value is 1.840, which is desirably close to 2, stating that there is no autocorrelation problem. In the regression model where the allowing attitude is a dependent variable, it's found out that the independent variables; physical abuse ($\beta = -0,079$, $p = 0,022$), emotional neglect ($\beta = -0.290$, $p = 0.000$) and sexual abuse ($\beta = -0.132$, $p = 0.000$) statistically presume the level of allowing attitude positively. As the level of physical abuse, emotional neglect and sexual abuse increases, the level of allowing attitude increases. The explanatory power of model being 11.9% ($R^2 = 0.119$, $F = 30.246$, $P = 0.000$). The 2.2% of the change of the level of allowing attitude is explained by the model formed.

DISCUSSION

First outcome of our research is that it's discovered that %99.67 of the participating adults suffer from sexual abuse, 99.23% physical abuse, 37.83% physical neglect, %25.55 emotional abuse, %22.90 emotional neglect and %32.19 general abuse. Yöyen's (Yöyen, 2017, 267-282) research stated that %31.1 of 530 participants have a background of childhood trauma, 26.4% emotional abuse, %12.5 physical abuse, %30.4 physical neglect, %15.7 emotional neglect and %18.1 sexual abuse. Zeren's research stated (Zeren, 2012, 536-541) when sexual, physical, emotional abuse and abuse like traumatic incidents are taken into account among adolescents who are in high school; %35 suffered from at least one, %14.3 at least two and %5.6 at least three different traumatic occurrences. Our research pointed out that sexual abuse is the most common childhood trauma, which is followed by physical abuse, physical neglect, emotional abuse and emotional neglect. The findings are different from the literature. The sample group of these differences is thought to be caused by cultural and social structural differences, as well as different scales used for the research. Second outcome of our research is that there is a positive correlation between the level of emotional abuse that the parents experienced during childhood and them having an authoritarian, allowing attitude; while democratic attitude has a negative one. As the

emotional abuse increases, democratic attitude decreases and authoritarian, allowing attitude increases. Not too many studies were found, yet Dengizek's (Dengizek, 2015, 3) study points out that mothers who experienced emotional neglect, turned out having an overprotective, repressive and disciplined attitude. Third outcome of our research is that there is a positive correlation between the level of emotional neglect that the parents experienced during childhood and them having an authoritarian, allowing attitude; while democratic attitude has a negative one. As the emotional neglect increases, authoritarian and allowing attitude increases while democratic attitude decreases. With their study Dinleyici and Dağlı (Dinleyici and Dağlı, 2016, 1-10) shared that; parents, who have a background of witnessing domestic violence and suffering from abuse, develop a traumatic attitude toward raising their own children. This group have an increased frequency of emotional neglect and abuse, showing the passing throughout generations.

Fourth outcome of our research is that there is a positive correlation between the level of physical abuse that the parents experienced by parents during childhood and them having an authoritarian, allowing attitude; while overprotective attitude has a negative one. As the physical abuse increases, overprotective attitude decreases, authoritarian and allowing attitude increases. In the study of Kaplan and his friends (Kaplan, Pelcovitz and Labruna, 1999, 1214-1222) pointed that physical neglect and abuse sufferers have lack social skills, have difficulty of forming close relationships and tend to form aggressive abusive shallow relationships. As the fifth outcome of our research; It showed that there is a positive correlation between the level of physical neglect that the parents experienced during childhood and them having an authoritarian, permissive attitude; while democratic and overprotective attitude has a negative one. Dengizek's (Dengizek, 2015, 3) study points out that mothers who experienced physical neglect, turned out having an overprotective and repressive, disciplined attitude; while fathers who experienced physical neglect tend to have a undemocratic, repressive and disciplined attitude.

As sixth outcome of our research; it's demonstrated that there is a positive correlation between the level of sexual abuse that the parents experienced during childhood and them having an authoritarian, allowing attitude. As the sexual abuse increases, authoritarian and allowing attitude increases. Dengizek's (Dengizek, 2015, 3) study points out that people who experienced sexual abuse, aren't able to form relationships between individuals and maintain social relations; also they have a tendency to suffer from depression starting with their adulthood. The last outcome of our research is that; there is a positive correlation between the level of overall abuse that the parents experienced during childhood and them having an authoritarian, allowing attitude; while democratic and overprotective attitude has a negative one. As the level of overall abuse decreases, authoritarian and allowing attitude increases. Then when the total abuse increases, democratic and overprotective attitude decreases.

Conclusion

The effects of neglect and abuse that the parents experience during childhood, are decisive factors of parental attitudes. Therefore to prevent or to reduce the negative effects of unwanted attitudes towards their children; a standardized educational procedure within a broad education scheme should

be formed by figuring out the educational needs of parents and if individuals who are planning to become parents are trained accordingly it will play a huge role on raising next generations with healthy parental attitudes.

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