THE CONTRIBUTION OF MOTHER – DAUGHTER ROLE REVERSAL AND SEPARATION INDIVIDUATION TO DAUGHTER'S FALSE-SELF AND SELF-SILENCING; A MEDIATION MODEL

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The period of adolescence brings dramatic changes in the relationship between the adolescent and the environment. These processes are reflected in the investigation and the search for a more robust and coherent sense of the self. Accordingly, authenticity, inner truth, the "true self" are considered to be essential components in the establishment of adolescents' self. Studies suggest the parent-adolescent relationships are essential for the formation of an adolescent’s authenticity and true self. However, when the psychological boundaries between the parents and adolescents are dissolved, as in the case of role reversal or complications in the process of separation-individuation, the states of false-self and self-silencing may be revealed. These difficulties are particularly true within the context of mother-daughter relationships which are characterized by elements of intimacy, warmth, nourishment, and tenderness as well as with ambivalence, tension, and constant conflict. Thus, the proposed study presents a mediation model in a sample of 160 Israeli female adolescents. Exploring the contribution of mother-adolescent role reversal, data indicated that mothers' role reversals comprised of both emotional and instrumental reversal, contributed to the establishment of difficulties in adolescents' separation-individuation. This, in turn, contributed to the manifestation of adolescents' false self and low levels of authenticity and subsequently to the appearance of adolescents' self-silencing.