COMMITMENTS IN CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS AND STUDY IN THE TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD: EFFECT OF PARENTING

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Previous research highlights the role of the family in the process of identity development (Koepke & Denissen, 2012). Parental support, warm relationship with parents, but also appropriate behavioral control is seen as necessary in healthy identity development and commitment making (Barber et al., 2005). On the contrary, psychological control is related to the lack of ability in commitment making (Luyckx et al., 2007). This study examines the impact of the perceived relationship with parents on the change in identity commitments in the transition to adulthood.

We used Czech adaptation of Groningen Identity Development Scale (Bosma, 1985; Konečná et al., 2010) to measure a level of commitments, Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (Armsden & Greenberg, 1987) to measure the quality of relationship with parents, Perception of Parental Autonomy-Support and Control Scale (Robbins, 1994) to assess the perceived parental autonomy-support and behavioral control and Psychological Control Scale (Barber, 1996) to assess parental psychological control.

We analyzed data from the longitudinal project Paths to adulthood. Sample is mostly women (75 %), university students, and aged 18 to 26 at the start of the project. This study employed multilevel growth models to analyze the change over three measurements of identity commitments in each domain of romantic relationship, relationship with parents and study.

We also estimate the effect of the parenting on this change. Results indicate a slight growth in commitments in all three domains. Commitments are generally higher in relationship domains and in women. There is a positive effect of quality of relationship with mother and autonomy support from father on the level of commitments. There is no effect of parental behavioral or psychological control.

Our results support the notion that the warm and supporting parenting in transition to adulthood is positively associated with achieving commitments in close relationships and study.