

SOCIAL ATTACHMENT AND HOPE AMONG CHILDREN LIVING IN INSTITUTIONS IN GHANA

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ATTACHMENT THEORY

- John Bowlby studying orphanage children
- Insecure attachment is related to increased:
 - anxiety
 - depression
 - difficulties in interpersonal relationships
 - physical illness
 - cognitive deficits
 - occurrence of behavioral problems
 - levels of stress for parents of insecurely attached child
 - lower socio-economic status

HOPE

- Hope can be described as the “motivation to attach oneself to positive outcomes or goals”
- Two kinds of hope: Agency and Pathway
- Increased hope leads to:
 - less depression and anxiety
 - increased academic achievement
 - improved coping styles
 - lower levels of loneliness
 - higher perception of personal strengths

SAMPLE

Sample According to Sex and Type of Home Setting

		<i>Type</i>		Total
		Reunified	RCF	
<i>Sex</i>	Female	43	66	109
	Male	72	85	157
Total		115	151	266

Age: 7-22, mean=14.47 (3.26)

VARIABLES

- Independent Variable, Social Attachment, was measured with the 14 item **Attachment Figure Interview**
- Dependent Variable, Hope, was measured with the six-item **Children’s Hope Scale (CHS)**
- Control Variables: **Type** of Home Setting, **Abandoned** by immediate family, **Sex, Age**, Number of **Siblings, Duration** of stay in RCF, **School** performance, and number of material **Goods**

REGRESSION RESULTS

OLS Regression Results for Total Hope, Agency Hope, and Pathway Hope

	<i>Total Hope</i>	<i>Agency Hope</i>	<i>Pathway Hope</i>
Attachment	0.110 (0.203)	0.198 (0.105)	-0.092 (0.134)
Type (RCF v. Reunified)	-1.954 (2.778)	0.190 (1.427)	-1.976 (1.758)
Type #Attachment	-0.011 (0.243)	-0.117 (0.126)	0.082 (0.150)
Age	0.525*** (0.140)	0.181** (0.067)	0.328*** (0.083)
School Performance	1.189* (0.588)	0.419 (0.295)	0.748* (0.343)
Goods	1.703*** (0.290)	0.995*** (0.138)	0.746*** (0.153)
Constant	-119.078 (60.469)	-41.514 (30.432)	-74.691* (35.275)
Observations	260	265	265
R-squared	0.294	0.311	0.240
r ² _a	0.266	0.284	0.210

Robust standard errors in parentheses

*** p<0.001, ** p<0.01, * p<0.05

HOPE TOTAL RESULTS

Descriptive Statistics of Variables included in Regression According to Type of Home Setting

	<i>RCF</i>				<i>Reintegrated</i>			
	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Total Hope	14	7.8	2	36	19	7.2	6	36
Attachment	9.08	3.8	0	12	12.07	2.55	2	14
Number of Siblings	3.91	2.37	0	11	3.77	2.21	0	11
Duration	5.36	3.21	0	11	5.05	2.85	1	11
School	1.86	0.69	1	3	1.97	0.7	1	3
Goods	2.48	1.76	0	8	2.64	1.64	0	7
Abandoned	29.80% Abandoned				41.74% Abandoned			

Native American children= 24.47 (4.83)

Portuguese children = 24.10 (5.01)

United States children = 28.89 (5.70)

South African children = RCF- 24.2(4.37) Community- 23.3(3.63) Total- 23.75(4.00)

LIMITATIONS

- Limited statistical power
- Convenience sampling
- Inability to make cross cultural comparisons

IMPLICATIONS

- Ensure school enrollment
- Increase access to material resources
 - LEAP Africa Grants (Leadership, Effectiveness, Accountability, Professionalism)
- Help increase positive attachments:
 - Number of caregivers
 - Train caregivers and parents on appropriate approaches to develop attachment
 - Ultimately move to family-based care

(COMPLETE REGRESSION RESULTS)

OLS Regression Results for Total Hope, Agency Hope, and Pathway Hope

	Total Hope	Agency Hope	Pathway Hope
Attachment	0.110 (0.203)	0.198 (0.105)	-0.092 (0.134)
Type (RCF v. Reunited)	-1.954 (2.778)	0.190 (1.427)	-1.976 (1.758)
Ob.type#co.attach	0.000 (0.000)	0.000 (0.000)	0.000 (0.000)
1.type#c.attach	-0.011 (0.243)	-0.117 (0.126)	0.082 (0.150)
Abandoned	1.850 (0.976)	0.801 (0.492)	1.036 (0.549)
Sex	0.393 (0.835)	-0.020 (0.425)	0.238 (0.458)
Age	0.525*** (0.140)	0.181** (0.067)	0.328*** (0.083)
Number of Siblings	0.014 (0.161)	-0.017 (0.083)	-0.003 (0.088)
Duration of Stay in RCF	0.137 (0.131)	0.087 (0.066)	0.051 (0.073)
School Performance	1.189* (0.588)	0.419 (0.295)	0.748* (0.343)
Goods	1.703*** (0.290)	0.995*** (0.138)	0.746*** (0.153)
Constant	-119.078 (60.469)	-41.514 (30.432)	-74.691* (35.275)
Observations	260	265	265
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r2_a	0.266	0.284	0.210

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