

## **Structural equation modeling (SEM) of separation anxiety in children according to the mother's personality, attachment style and children maladaptive schemas**

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### **Abstract**

*Separation Anxiety is one of the disorders which affects in children's educational activities and also in their social adjustment, so, the purpose of this study was identifying factors affecting this disorder. This study is correlation type and structural equation modeling. The statistical method was 620 mother-child (6-7 years old girls and boys) pairs from Qom city that were selected by stratified cluster sampling. To collect data, NEO Five-Factor Personality test, Children maladaptive Schema Questionnaire, and Child Symptom Inventory were used. Data was analyzed by using of structural equations modeling, and was approved by Using structural equation modeling analysis and appropriate fitness model was approved. Comparative fit index was equal to 0.726 and incremental fit index was higher than 0.9, respectively. In the standard model, the causal relationship means between two paths "mother's personality" and children's mediator variables "Attachment" and "maladaptive schemas" and finally on the dependent variable, the "separation anxiety" was seen. Results show the direct negative impact of "Mother's personality" on "child attachment style" which "The attachment of the child" as a mediator variable by a factor of 0.34 had more impact with respect to "children maladaptive schemas". "Mother's personality" shows positive and direct impact on the "children maladaptive schemas" and finally on the dependent variable.*

**Keywords: Separation Anxiety in Children, The Mother's Personality, Attachment Style, Children Maladaptive Schemas.**

## **Introduction**

The prevalence of "Anxiety disorders" among children and adolescents is high, at a rate of 5 to 17 percent (Costello, Angold, 1995, and Warner, 2009), meanwhile separation anxiety in children has significant population, (Abdekhodae and Sadeghyar Dubady, 2011). This disorder is occurred naturally in babies who is appeared as a valuable response to life duration and a part of natural growth, and also diminished naturally (Rapee, 1991, and Apetroaia, Hill, & Creswell, 2015). This disorder occurs at preschool ages and children who enter school for the first time; and diagnosed when excessive disproportionate anxiety, appears in the time of separation after attachment; and so, highly motivated children and force him to avoid of situations that require separation. Children suffering this disorder, often have fears that during this period of separation, incidentally happen harm to themselves or their watchers and insist on staying watcher beside them and at the time of separation, become angry and confused, or are suffering from physical illness and most of them refuse of going to school, or summer camps and activity with friends to avoid of separation (Dadsetan, 2003).

Jongerden, Simon, Bodden, Dirksen, & Bogels (2015) also showed in a study that children with anxiety disorder, probably after eight years after beginning of disorder, receive a diagnostic criterion. This disorder, in addition to educational activities, has negative effect on social adjustment, relationship with peers and predicts the psychotic disorders in the teens period (Merikangas, Aven Voli, 2002, Bithner, Eger, Erkanli, Castello, Folly, Angold, 2007, Liberman, Lips, Spence, & March, 2006). Cavasagar et, al, (2000) also showed that separation anxiety in the young period predict equivalent to 0.33% of separation anxiety scores variance in the adulthood, Which, if untreated, will continue to adulthood and the person encounters to many problems. Therefore, it is realized that anxiety disorders including childhood separation anxiety may become chronic and persistent.

Appearance of different kinds of anxiety including separation anxiety in the period of children evolution from different views, is understand as a function of a kind of object relations and especially mother-children relation; so, it has some roles in creating children anxiety (Dobre, Rădulescu, Gabor, Maria Gherasim, & Vas, 2014). In studying the variables of children separation anxiety and especially, the variables of parents (especially for mother), personality variables, cognitive and so on, is not opened widely in the research field. So, with regard to inappropriate consequences of this disorder, it is important to treat it and this importance, promote the study for codification of structural equation modeling for identifying the creating factors of the separation anxiety.

For explanation the causes of the separation anxiety formation, by studying the existing theories about understanding of mutual relation between parents and children, it could be understood that they insist on the environmental stressors (Weisz, & Chorpita, 2012). Hewitt & Flett (2004), Dobre, Rădulescu, Gabor, Maria Gherasim, & Vas (2014), Ryff & Singer (1998), Babae, Golestani Bakht, and Yaghoubi (2008) have showed that there is a significant relation between mother's personal dimensions and psychological welfare and children mental illness

including anxiety. Eysenck (1981) with believe in a powerful influence of these factors on the behaviors, believed that agreeableness and conscientiousness are two factors with non-genetic enamel. In this view, neuroticism (anxiety) is not just limited to sickly individuals; but these persons earn higher score on this factor compared to normal individuals, that this factor and other two factors are fundamental human personality (Feist & Feist, 2002 ). Horney (1950) argues that fundamental anxiety stems from a fundamental hostility and it occurs when the child feels threatened from parent side, for defending against the threat of hostile has reaction; the hostile reaction will cause more anxiety (Feist & Feist, 2002 ).

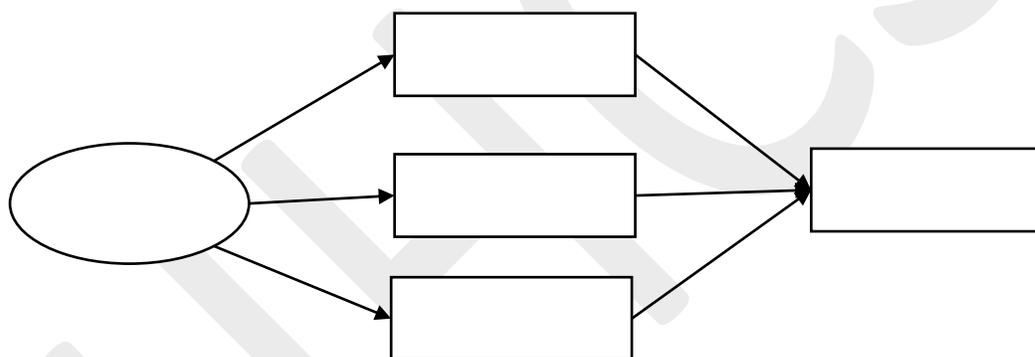
It could be understood from these results that in the most cases, negative perfectionism understand a conflict between neurotic perfectionism demands and actual performance and it is believed that the resulted conflict, affects adversely on individual anxiety However, Whiteside, Gryczkowski, & Ale (2013) believe that mother with negative perfectionism personality get anxiety and this anxiety, with respect to the modeling concept will be transferred to the child. Chorpita and Barlow (2004), according to Alive, Sharifi and Ghafelehbashi (2012), also believe that some dimensions of mother's behavior-which includes warmness or emotions with respect to children and stable response and also children encouragement which is a part of her personality to the lack of attachment- simplifies creating children control feeling and reducing their anxiety (Hewitt & Flett, 2004). This new direction which is proposed by the attachment theory (Rutter and Heisenberg, 2010,. Bowlby, 1969); with the formation of the attachment relation between mother and child, mother acts as safety net and facilitator of surveying and "emotionally refuels". According to the primary attachment experiences, "internal working model" will grow in the child, which influences all of the other relations. Safety and healthy growth of the child sensitive and responsive to one or more attachment symbol will result in self-control and problem solving skills (Braderson, 2006). Lack of opportunity to form an attachment will lead to the pattern of clinical attachment disorder (Rutter, 2010). He the study of the relationship between styles of attachment and anxiety disorders found that secure attachment is associated with low levels of anxiety disorders. Khodapanahi, Ghanbari, Nad Ali, Sayed Mousavi (2012) also showed unsafe double-oriented children are prone to separation anxiety disorder, the results of these two studies are consistent. Zolfaghari Motlagh, Jazayeri, Mazaheri and Karimloo (2008) also showed attachment based therapy without direct intervention in the management of child anxiety can reduce the symptoms of separation anxiety in children. A look at the research, we can conclude, insecure attachment may be one of the factors causing separation anxiety.

Nouee, Asgharnejad Farid, Fata and Ashouri (2010) found parents roots for maladaptive schemas, Parents who do not allow children's assertiveness or expression of opinion, and prevent children's emotions and inner feelings, their children with maladaptive schema, will become neurotic, anxiety and confused persons (Ghamkhar Fard & at.al, 2014). The personality and viewpoint which is adopted by parents on impacting with their children have important role in the formation, growth and evolution of the child in the early life ages. Schemas as cognitive elements play some roles in the organized character and how to interpret personal experiences of events. Ghamkharfard, Amrolahinia, and Azad Fallah (2012) showed that children maladaptive

schema plays a more prominent role in prediction of childhood anxiety. The findings showed that the anxieties of childhood by the failure schemas, vulnerability, loneliness and domination of children are expected to be dominated. In anticipation of separation anxiety in children, Nicholas, Woodruff-Borden (2015) through cognitive variables showed that there is a direct relation between negative self-thoughts and inappropriate care with respect to needs of children, with separation anxiety.

Some parenting styles which provided by Baumrind, is related to children separation anxiety (Whiteside, Gryczkowski, & Ale, 2013). Models based on parenting and inspecting of the relation between this variable and anxiety has concentrated on control, care and parents personality concepts (Warren, Huston, Ogland, Saraphy, 1997). The results of Ghamkharfard, Amrolahinia, and Azad Fallah (2012) research showed that children schemas with respect to mother's parenting styles have a more prominent role in prediction of childhood anxiety.

The above context, have confirmed the importance of factors considered in the development of separation anxiety in children that for prevention, these factors should be considered since childhood. So, with respect to the short-term goals and future which consist of:



reducing or removing separation anxiety disorder and reducing psychological damages and long-term goals such as preventing of the separation anxiety creation (Lotfi Kashani and Vaziri, 2010), you can develop a prediction model based on maternal personality, separation anxiety, attachment style and child maladaptive schemas, parenting style variables and reviewing the relationship of each of the intermediate variables with the dependent variable, taken an important step in this direction, so the assumed causal model of separation anxiety is drawn in the following drawing.

**Figure 1.** Structural model of the relation between child separation anxiety, child attachment style, parenting style, child maladaptive schema and mother's personality

According to reviewed studies and theoretical viewpoints of effective variables on the child separation anxiety, the study attempts to review priority and posteriori of the studied variables, and structural modeling of separation anxiety in children is explained.

## Research Methodology

Research Methodology, Statistical Population and Sample: This study is based on the goal of basically type and with respect to style is capturing the data of descriptive type and correlation on the basis of the collected data type of quantitative type. In this regard the relevant questionnaire after explaining and teaching mothers, have distributed and the results have been published. In addition, for examining overall conceptual model of research, structural equation modeling approach was used. The statistical population is consisted of boys and girls students, 6 and 7 years-old pre-school and primary school in the Qom city with their mothers who have been studying 2013-14 academic year, (26740 people) were consisted. Since the purpose is providing a structural equation model, so that large sample was needed (Arizi and Farahani, 2008), so according to population size, 620 individuals were selected using stratified sampling and cluster, so that first all Qom city schools according to district education of the city were divided in the classes and then a cluster of each class, schools was selected and among the schools in terms of their students were sampled using Cochran formula.

### **Tools: For collecting research data, the following tools were used,**

- "Five-Factor NEO Personality Inventory» which its short form is a questionnaire of 60 questions and was produced by McCrae and Costa in 1980. The questionnaire used to evaluate personality factors of high reliability and high correlation between the scales. Answered a questionnaire based on the Likert scale has been set. Validity ranging from 0.83 to 0.75 is obtained. Long-term reliability of the questionnaire in a six-year long study on the scale of neuroticism, extraversion, experience acceptance, reliability coefficient of between 0.68 to 0.83 in personal accounts and reports have shown couples (McCrae and Costa, 1983; quoted by Garousi Farshi, 2001). In normal navigation pad to NEO by Garousi Farshi (2001), the sample size was 2,000. The correlation coefficient between 0.56 and 0.78 has reported five original. Cronbach alpha for each of the main factors of neuroticism, extraversion, openness, acceptance and loyalty, was respectively, 0.86, 0.73, 0.56, 0.68, 0.87 respectively (Garousi Farshi, 2001).

- "The child's attachment measure scale (Q-Set). This questionnaire has 90 questions which is used for measuring attachment in children. In a meta-analysis by Tabaeh Emami, Nouri, Malekpour, Abedi (2011) examined the validity of the test. Reputation forecast was 0.39. The stability of the questionnaire was calculated 0.88 by retesting and Cronbach's alpha internal consistency test was calculated 0.83 and concurrent validity with the strange situation Ainsworth and Mary (1989), was 0.27.

- "Child maladaptive Schema Questionnaire" includes 40 items that evaluate eleven schemas in child. Questions are designed for children and points to shared experiences in the lives of children (Rijkeboer and de Boo, 2010, quoted by Ghamkharfard, Amrollahi Nia, and Azad Fallah, 2012). This questionnaire is resulted from Factor Analysis of the Young Schema Questionnaire of 75 questions in the Young Schema. Questionnaire Schema Eight schemas of the 15 Young Schema for children were also studied. Alone schema is resulted of combining two schemas, emotional deprivation and social isolation. A new schema in children as a result of the

combination of abandonment and vulnerability schemas were triggered in Young's questionnaire and was specified as vulnerability schema. The third schema in children with dominance schema became clear that as a result of the combination of three schemas subjugation, emotional inhibition, and dependence/incompetence has obtained. In this questionnaire 11 subscales for examining of 11 schemas in children were considered. The subscales include the following items: loneliness (5 items), submission (5 items), mistrust/abuse (3 items), defectiveness (3 items), failure (3 items), vulnerability (six items), self-sacrifice (three items), dedication (three items), unrelenting standards (three items), entitlement / hauteur (three items) and insuff self-control (3 items). Any statements are scored by four degree Likert scale. In the study of Rijkeboer and de Boo (2010), quoted by Ghamkharfard, Amrollahi Nia, and Azad Fallah, (2012) stability was calculated by test-retest reliability and the average correlation 0.67 obtained for all subscales. The validity of the study through early adolescent temperament questionnaire-revised (EATQ-R; Ellis, Rothbart, 2001, quoted by Ghamkharfard, Amrollahi Nia, and Azad Fallah, 2012) was calculated and was received a significant relation between variables within two questionnaire (with the exception of small-scale dedication and self-sacrifice).

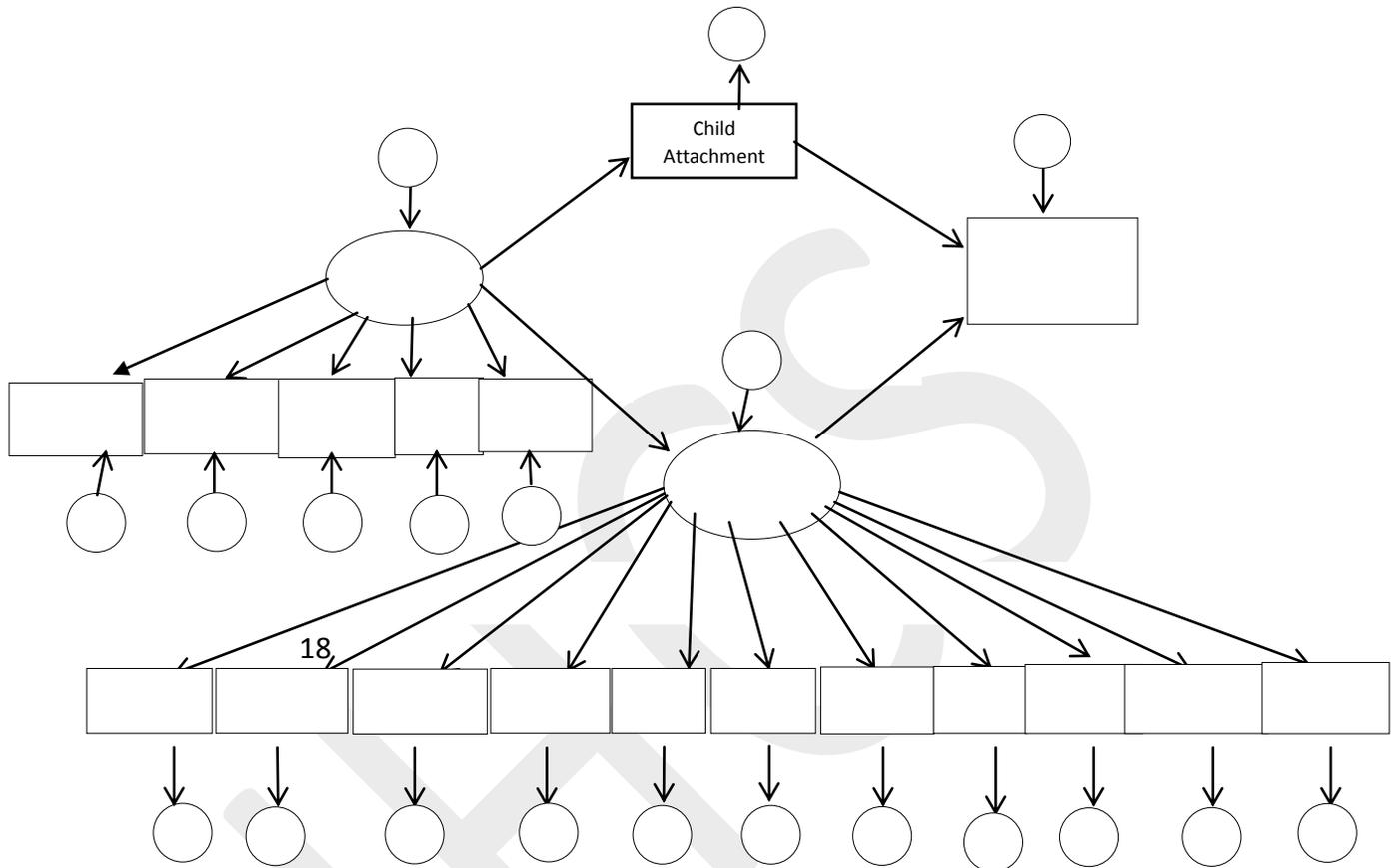
- "Child abnormal symptoms inventory (CSI-4)" that the current screening tools has been the most common psychiatric disorders in children, which its statements has been developed based on criteria of Fourth Edition Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM\_IV). The log contains a list of 21 symptoms of behavioral and emotional disorders. "Sensitivity" and "specificity" of the questionnaire agreed with an Iranian-style psychiatrist diagnosis based on different cut scores and the best score was determined for each disorder. The sensitivity of the test is from 0.75. to 0.89, and specificity between 0.91. And 0.97 respectively was obtained. The stability of the questionnaire using bisection method to the list of teachers was 0.91. And it was 0.85 for the parent directory. The validity of the questionnaire using Cronbach's alpha is 0.748. To assess symptoms of separation anxiety in children 8 questions in the questionnaire included anxiety disorder.

Data Analyzes Method: The depended variables detection model analyzes was done by AMOS software, that structural equations modeling was used for codification of the separation anxiety model with respect to supposed variables. Estimation of model parameters was done by method of maximum likelihood (ML). This method is inviolable for large samples with respect to normal deviation.

## Results

Data obtained from the questionnaire "Five-Factor Personality Inventory NEO", "Scale of child attachment (Q-Set)", "Child Maladaptive Schema Questionnaire", "children symptom inventory (CSI-4)" were studied by using SPSS, AMOS software's. Structural model used in the study of cause and effect relationship between the variables examined (Homan, 2001). Due to the significance of relations between variables, using structural equation modeling, using AMOS software was licensed. The following standard model after saturated model examination and removing meaningless routes have been obtained statistically.

Fitted model with the standard scores is as follows:



**Figure 2.** Fitted model with the standard scores of Child Separation Anxiety, Child Attachment Style, Child Maladaptive Schema, and Mother's Personality

Two indexes of 0.15 and 0.28 shows the effect of the external variable “Mother’s Personality” on the internal variables “Attachment”, and “Child Maladaptive Schema”. The 0.15 index shows the inverse effect of “Mother’s Personality” on the “Child Attachment” and the 0.28 index shows the positive and direct effect of the external variable “Mother’s Personality” on the internal variable “Child Maladaptive Schema”. Among the effective subscales on “Mother’s Personality”, the variable X25 “Conscience” has the maximum effect that with regard to negativity shows the inverse effect of this scale on mediator variable. Variable X21, also, “Neuroticism” has the minimum effect. Two indexes 0.34 and 0.08 are the effects of two internal variables (Mediator) “Attachment” and “Child Maladaptive Schema” on the scores of “Child Separation Anxiety” which shows positive and direct effect of these two variables on the dependent variable. Among the subscales of “Child Maladaptive Schema”, the variable X71 (loneliness) with the index of 0.80 has the maximum effect and the variable X77 “self-sacrifice” has the minimum effect.

**Table 1.** Data Analyzes and Modeling with the aid of SPSS and AMOS software

<b>Variables</b>		<b>Estimation</b>	<b>S.E</b>	<b>C.R</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Child Attachment</b>	→ <b>Mother's personality</b>	-6.677	2.418	-2.761	.006
<b>Child Maladaptive Schema</b>	→ <b>Mother's personality</b>	.208	.053	3.940	***
<b>X21:N Neuroticism</b>	→ Mother's personality	1.000			
<b>X22:E Extroversion</b>	→ Mother's personality	-2.105	.391	-5.390	***
<b>X23: O Openness</b>	→ Mother's personality	-1.182	.232	-5.098	***
<b>X24:A Agree</b>	→ Mother's personality	-2.030	.378	-5.369	***
<b>X25:C Conscientiousness</b>	→ Mother's personality	-2.862	.523	-5.478	***
<b>Child Separation Anxiety</b>	→ <b>Child Attachment</b>	.019	.002	8.159	***
<b>X711: insufficient self-control</b>	→ Child maladaptive schema	1.000			
<b>X710: Eligibility / Magnanimity</b>	→ Child maladaptive schema	.776	.067	11.666	***
<b>X79: Hard Criteria</b>	→ Child maladaptive schema	.746	.063	11.859	***
<b>X78: Dedication</b>	→ Child maladaptive schema	.379	.063	5.970	***
<b>X77: Self-Sacrifice</b>	→ Child maladaptive schema	.121	.064	1.895	.038
<b>X76: Vulnerability</b>	→ Child maladaptive schema	1.909	.118	16.175	***
<b>X75: Failure</b>	→ Child maladaptive schema	.899	.056	16.019	***
<b>X74: Defectiveness</b>	→ Child maladaptive schema	.689	.053	13.068	***
<b>X73: Mistrust / Abuse</b>	→ Child maladaptive schema	.936	.064	14.653	***
<b>X72: Submission</b>	→ Child maladaptive schema	1.620	.095	17.001	***
<b>X71: Loneliness</b>	→ Child maladaptive schema	1.479	.085	17.410	***
<b>Child Separation Anxiety</b>	→ <b>Child maladaptive schema</b>	.250	.142	1.765	.028

Reviewing and analyzing data in the modeling of estimated coefficients shows selected significant routes. The effect of external variables "mother's Personality" on internal variables

(mediator) "Child Attachment" and "Child Maladaptive schema" as well as internal variable and dependent on the final score of "separation anxiety in children" is significant.

**Table 2.** Measures of goodness of fit of structural equation modeling Separation Anxiety

Index	Chi-square	Df	P-value	RMSE	RFI	TLI	NFI	IFI	CFI
Value	326.249	133	0.000	.069	.726	.901	.887	.921	.918

Jöreskog and Sörbom (1993) believe that Chi-Square in practice is a measure of goodness instead of a statistical test, and its low values and near to zero is a criterion for goodness of fit. However, large samples always lead to a large Chi Square. But, since the sample volume is already large, it could not emphasized on its significance as rejecting the zero assumption and its justification for society. Therefore, for reducing the effect of its dependency to the sample size, look to other indicators and interpretation. The structural equation modeling, the most probability approach to estimate the pattern and some other indicators were used to evaluate the fit of the model. The most common model fit indices, chi-square on the degree of freedom, square root of estimation of the variance error of approximation, comparative fit index (incremental fit index and comparative fit index) were evaluated: the value of the Chi square on the degrees of freedom less than 5 is desirable fit. The value closer to 1 indicate increased and comparative fit and index value of less than or equal to indices 0.05 for square root estimation of the variance of the error of approximation indicate to meet appropriate fitness (Homan, 2001).

Due to the fact that the Chi square divided by degree of freedom is a figure less than 3 (2.453), indicating the significance of the model (P-Value=0.000). The root mean square error of approximation (RMSE=0.069)<sup>1</sup>, respectively. This measure is good for models less than 0.08 and for weak models, its value is larger than 0.10 (Homan, 2001). Adaptive fitness indicators (CFI=0.19)<sup>2</sup>, are also higher than 0.9 that of the corresponding data model. Comparative fit index is (RFI=0.627)<sup>3</sup>, even though this figure is closer to one, as a better fit of data to the model will be interpreted Tucker-Lewis (TLI) above 0.90 has been calculated that reflects a good model. Index NFI<sup>4</sup> "Bentler and Bonnet normalized fit index" equal to 0.887 is close to 0.9. The index higher than 0.9 represents the model is ideal. IFI<sup>5</sup> incremental fit index and the above table show that in the path 1 and 2 exists statistically significant causal relationship.

**Table 3.** Results of the implementation of the structural model for the variable of the study

Path	Path	Results
1	Mother's personality -----> Child attachment -----> Child Separation	Confirmed and Meaningful

1. Root Mean Square Error
2. Comparative Fit Index
3. Relative Fit Index
4. Normed Fit Index
5. Incremental Fit Index

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Anxiety			
2	Mother's personality -----> Child maladaptive schema -----> Child Separation Anxiety		Confirmed and Meaningful

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According to the fact that mediator variable, "parenting style" had little impact in the development of separation anxiety disorder, so this variable was removed from the model.

### **Discussion and Conclusion**

To identify factors affecting separation anxiety and examining its relationship with the supposed variables, this study aims to develop a causal model based on variables of children separation anxiety based on the variables "mother's Personality", "Child Attachment Style" and "Child Maladaptive Schema" implemented. The results revealed that the explored model is fairly good and graceful model and can be relied upon to explain the child's separation anxiety. The resulted model of the research is consisted of a two-track model of which is as follows: (Mother's Personality → Child Attachment Style → Child Separation anxiety) and (Mother's Personality → Child Maladaptive Schema → Child Separation anxiety).

It could be seen in the first path that "Mother's Personality" by a factor of 0.15- has opposite effect on "Child Attachment Style". Among the personality subscales, scale E «extraversion" has negative correlation with the Child Attachment Style ( $\alpha < 0.05$ ), means that between A scale "Agreeableness" and the Child Attachment Style is positive significant correlation ( $\alpha < 0.01$ ), and between C scale "Conscientiousness" and the Child Attachment Style, there is a positive significant correlation ( $\alpha < 0.01$ ). The effect of Mother's Personality on the Child Attachment Style is also agreed by Ryff and Singer (1998), Babae, Golestani Bakht, and Yaghoubi (2001), But, Whiteside, Gryczkowski, & Ale (2013) believe that mother with neurotic negative perfectionism personality becomes anxious and this anxiety, according to the modeling concept is transferred to the child. It should be mentioned that the parents with this kind of personality who do not allow child assertive out or commenting out and prevent internal emotions and feelings of the child, their children with the unsafe attachment style and maladaptive schema, would become neurotic, anxious and confused person (Ghamkhar Fard & at.al, 2014), these find outs are consistent with the results of the current study. Chorpita and Barloo (2004, according to Alive, Sharifi and Ghafelehbashi, 2012), also believe that some dimensions of mother's behavior that includes warmness or tender with respect to the children and stable response and also children encouragement that is a part of her personality to non-attachment and causes facilitating of creating children control feeling and reducing their anxiety; So, the current study findings are consistent with the prior studies. Among the effective subscales of "mother's personality", X25 variable "conscience" has the maximum effect that with respect to negativity, shows the opposite effect of this scale on meditative variable child attachment. Horney (1950) argues that fundamental anxiety stems from the child's fundamental hostility to defend against the threat of hostile parental response has prompted the hostile reaction insecure attachment style and creates more anxiety. According to this view and the findings of this study

high score in conscientiousness variable reduces the fundamental hostility and adverse effect on children's mediator attachment and separation anxiety.

Ranging review X21 "Neuroticism" with minimal effect on the mediator with a view to Eysenck (1981) are in keeping. He has considered this factor as a part of the normal character. This factor is significant in theory and in terms of Carl Jung also has a powerful influence on behavior (Feist & Feist, 2002., Apetroaia, Hill, Creswell, 2015). With these results we can get in most cases, negative perfectionism between neurotic perfectionism and performance demands of real, to understand conflict belief that the conflict resulting adverse effects on anxiety also differ by individual, rather than (Sabounchi and Lvndh, 1997), but Burke (2001), Dobre, Rădulescu, Gabor, Maria Gherasim, & Vas (2014) argues mother with anxious personalities negative perfectionism and anxiety, according to the concept model will be transferred to the child. Chorpita and Barlow (2004, quoted by Elaiwi, honest and Qafih-Bashy, 2011) also believe that aspects of maternal behavior, which includes warm or sensitive response to children and encourage children with stability and also that he is a part Azshkhsyt lack of interest and facilitate the creation of a sense of control and reduce children's anxiety (Hewitt & Flett, 2004). These results support the findings of this study.

Also, it could be seen that in this path, child attachment style has direct effect on the child separation with index of 0.34, so, it could be said that unsafe child attachment causes increase of child separation anxiety. Now, according to this study findings based on child attachment style as meditative variable and belonging "conscience" component with the maximum effect, according to the prior studies it could be understood that in the attachment relations between mother-child formations, mother acts as a safety net and facilitator who according to the primary attachment experiences and "internal active model" will influence all of the other relations and causes emotional adjustment and self-control and problem solving skills in the child. According to the findings of Rutter (2010), Khodapanahi, Ghanbari, Nadali, Sayed Mousavi (2012), Zolfaghari Motlagh, Jazayeri, Mazaheri, and Karimlo (2008), & Rapi (1997); that children with two direction unsafe attachment styles are ready for the separation anxiety disorder and their consistency with the current study findings is an agreement with the first path of structural model explanation. Also, according to theory with the emphasis on the Bowlby attachment theory (1969), it could be said that the best explanatory concept for the separation anxiety phenomena is attachment concept, because in fact the child suffering the separation anxiety, suffers of "lest to lose mother" and unsafe attachment clearly will reflect this situation, so, this path in the model will be supported by both theoretical and empirical.

The second path, shows that mother's personality has direct effect on "child maladaptive schema" with the index of 0.28, in fact there is a significant relation between mother's personality and all of the child maladaptive schemas. Nowee, Asgharnejad Farid, Fata and Ashouri (2010) also for maladaptive schemas found parent routes. In this path also, the effect of the internal variable "child maladaptive schema" on separation anxiety with the index of 0.08 is evident, which this finding is consisted with Ahmadian (2005) findings. Among the maladaptive schemas, "loneliness" schema has had the maximum effect and "self-sacrifice" schema has had

the minimum effect on the separation anxiety. This result is consistent with Ghamkharfard, Amrollahinia, and Azad Fallah (2012) and Stalard (2007) findings; Findings of the mentioned studies showed that childhood anxiety could be predicted by failure, defectiveness, loneliness, and submissiveness schemas. Forecasts regarding separation anxiety in children, Nicholas, Woodruff-Borden (2015) showed that there is a direct relation between negative self-come thoughts and inappropriate care for children in need with the separation anxiety that in comparison with the variable effect X77 (self-sacrifice) with the index of 0.09 in the current study and findings of the prior studies has endorsed on the effect of meditative variable on the dependent variable.

In the given variable model "parenting style" as a mediator variable was considered, But after entering data of this variable in the explored model not any significant relationship between these variables and the dependent variable was not seen that this result also is consistent with the findings of Ghamkharfard, Amrollahinia, and Azad Fallah (2012) that the children schemas with respect to mother's parenting styles, plays a more prominent role in predicting of the childhood anxiety.

Findings of the present study in accordance with the theoretical and experimental background show that mother's personality is effective on the child separation anxiety and this effect is created by two variable mediator "attachment style" and "child maladaptive schemas". Surveying the mediator role of attachment style and the child maladaptive schemas in the child separation anxiety is very important. Accordingly, the effort in the direction of treatment services and mothers teaching in the direction of increasing the self-awareness and improving parenting methods firstly and corrective measures for changing attachment style and children maladaptive schemas could increase their psychological well-being and reducing the signals of the separation anxiety disorder. In theoretical level, the current study results confirm the mentioned variables and ask a new question: Whether, the proposed model is the same for different sexual and age groups? Researchers are concerned to attempt examine the proposed model by the use of multi group structural equation modeling for forwarding this model to more collectivity. Also, surveying of the similar models with the related variables with "child separation anxiety" is instead of thinking; it suggests that the researchers check the proposed model relations by considering of mother attachment styles, mother anxiety, and self-esteem variables in the other population especially single child family and other economic-cultural conditions.

Although, the current study prepared some evidence about mediator role of attachment style and child maladaptive schema, but, there was some limitations. One of these limitations was using of attachment project which causative interpretation from its results could be done. The second limitation was self-reporting characteristic of research tools that showed the participant understands results from the measured structures. The measured structures may be influenced by different family, individual and cultural values.

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