

## MEDIATOR ROLES OF DYSFUNCTIONAL COPING MODES IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTAL FAVORITISM AND VULNERABLE AND GRANDIOSE NARCISSISM

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**BACKGROUND AND AIM:** This study aimed to examine the mediating role of dysfunctional schema coping modes in the relationship between perceived parental favoritism and vulnerable and grandiose narcissism.

**METHODS:** The sample included 506 participants (354 females and 150 males), aged 18-65, all of whom had at least one sibling. Data were collected using a Demographic Information Form, questions on parental favoritism, the Schema Mode Inventory, and the Pathological Narcissism Inventory, following approval from the Research Ethics Committee (E-85646034-604.01-78043). **RESULTS:** Correlation analysis revealed significant positive relationships among the variables. The differences in vulnerable and grandiose narcissism, schema overcompensation, surrender and avoidance scores according to the presence of parental favoritism in the family were examined with MANOVA tests. Significant group differences were found in terms of vulnerable narcissism ( $p<.025$ ) and schema avoidance ( $p<.017$ ). In order to examine the mediating role of schema coping modes

in the relationship between parental favoritism and narcissism types, two parallel mediation models were tested. According to the results of the analysis, it was found that parental favoritism in the family was not directly related to grandiose ( $B = .52$ ,  $p>.05$ ) and vulnerable ( $B = 2.67$ ,  $p>.05$ ) narcissism, but indirectly related to the mediating effect of schema surrender and schema overcompensation ( $p<.05$ ).

**CONCLUSIONS:** The findings suggest that perceived parental favoritism from at least one parent is associated with increased level of schema surrender and schema overcompensation coping modes. These schema coping modes, in turn, predict increased level of vulnerable and grandiose narcissism. Clinical implications of the present study indicate the importance of addressing perceived parental favoritism, along with schema surrender and overcompensation, when working with narcissistic personality patterns.

**Keywords:** Dysfunctional coping modes, grandiose narcissism, parental favoritism, schema therapy, vulnerable narcissism