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Influence of Parenting Style on Problem-Behaviour Among Pre-Adolescents

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Abstract : *The main objective of this study was concerned and focused on the influence of parenting style on problem behavior among pre-adolescents and how different parenting style lead to different behavior problems among pre-adolescents. In this study 150 samples were selected through random sampling in the age group of 8 to 12 years. For measuring the influence of parent style among pre-adolescents parenting-style scale and problem-behavior checklist were used. Findings suggested that authoritarian parenting style leads the children to become rebellious and adopt problematic behavior. In contrast, authoritative parenting style is effective for children, as it encourages moderate parenting style. Parents who spend maximum time with their children reduce the probability of problematic behavior among pre-adolescents.*

Keywords: *authoritative, authoritarian, pre-adolescence, parenting-child relationship, problem behaviour, parenting styles, permissive, uninvolved*

Introduction

The parenting style concept was developed by Diana Baumrind, a developmental psychologist. According to Baumrind, pre-adolescents exhibited three different types of behaviour, each correlated with different types of parenting styles. The different behaviour of pre-adolescents was highly in mutual relationship with specific parenting styles exhibited by parents. Based on extensive observation, interviews and analyses, he concluded that there are three types of parenting styles. These are: Authoritative parenting style, Authoritarian parenting style and Permissive parenting style. (Baumrind 1967).

The parenting style model was further expanded using a two-dimensional framework. The permissive parenting style was further expanded into two different types: indulgent (permissive) parenting and neglectful (uninvolved) parenting. These four parenting styles i.e. Authoritative parenting,

Authoritarian Parenting, Permissive parenting and Uninvolved parenting are referred to as Maccoby and Martin parenting styles.

Authoritative parents demand for achievement and maturity, but at the same time they provide warmth and are responsive to their child. These parents using reasoning have open discussion with their child and set rules and regulations for them. They encourage independence, are supportive and provide affection. This parenting style is also referred to as Democratic Parenting Style. Although authoritarian and authoritative parenting styles have similar names, they have several important differences in parenting beliefs. Unlike authoritative parenting, authoritarian parenting style demands blind compliance. These parents use discipline and often employ punishment to control children's behavior. Authoritarian parents are unresponsive to their children's needs and are generally not nurturing. Permissive parents set very few rules and boundaries and they are reluctant to enforce rules. These parents provide warmth and are indulgent, but they do not disappoint their child. Neglectful parents or uninvolved parent do not set firm boundaries or high standards. They show least interest in their children's lives and are indifferent to their needs. The uninvolved parents tend to have mental issues such as depression, child abuse when they themselves were kids. (Maccoby and Martin 1983)

Parenting styles are associated with different child behaviors and the authoritative style is generally linked to positive behaviors. Authoritative parents are more successful than any other parenting style. However, culture, children's perceptions of parental treatment, and social influences also play a pivotal role in children's behavior. (Cherry K. 2018)

Aunola (2005) investigated the combination of mothers' and fathers' parenting styles (affection, behavioral control, and psychological control) that would be influencing children's behavior. A total of 196 children of age group 5-6 years were followed up six times from kindergarten to the second grade to assess the problematic behaviors in them. The findings revealed that a high level of psychological control exercised by mothers combined with high affection predicted increases in the levels of both internal and external problem behaviors among children.

Kordi & Baharudin (2010) reviewed empirical studies on children's school achievements. The contributions of parenting attitude and style were examined in relation to children's school achievement. A strong relationship between children's school achievement and parenting attitude and style was reported in the paper. The findings revealed that the achievement of children in school is associated with Democratic parenting style or Authoritative parenting style.

Materials and Methods

The present study is concerned and focused on the influence of parenting style on problem behavior among pre-adolescents and how different parenting style lead to different behavior problems among pre-adolescents.

Objectives

- To determine the different parenting style perceived by children.
- To assess the level of problematic behavior among pre-adolescents.
- To analyze the impact of different parenting style over the problematic behavior of pre-adolescents.

Hypothesis

- There will be different levels of parent-child relations,
- There will be a differential relationship between parent and child relationship.

Sampling

The sample was taken from various schools of Kanpur on availability basis. Purposive sampling process was followed while selecting the students from the school as well as the students. The total sample was of 150 pre-adolescents.

Variables

- Pre-adolescents
- Parenting Style scale
- Problem-Behaviour Checklist

Tests used

- Parenting Style Scale -This test has 30 items having three sections. Each section assesses the different parenting styles. A six-point scale is used to seek the response. The calculated score is the total score for that category. The highest score indicates preferred parenting style. (Robinson, et al., 1995).
- Problem-behaviour checklist -This test has 58 items indicative of behaviour problem. This test can be conducted on children. A 1-3-point scale is used to seek the response. The highest score indicates high behaviour problem in children. (Veeraghavan&Dogra1971)

Results

Result table 1: Parenting styles and problematic behaviour among pre-adolescents.

Sample distribution according to the gender, problem behaviour& parenting styles	Percentage
Gender	
No. of males	51%
No. of females	48%
Problem behaviour	
Low behaviour problem	83%
Moderate behaviour problem	16%
High behaviour problem	—
Parenting Styles	
Authoritative parenting style	84%
Authoritarian parenting style	11.3%
Permissive parenting style	4.6%

This table shows the sample distribution according to the gender, problem behaviour and parenting styles. 51% are males and 48% are females. Pre-adolescents having low behaviour problem and moderate behaviour problem are 83% and 16% respectively. The authoritative parenting style is the most exhibited parenting style and is more effective for children as it encourages better behaviour pattern among pre-adolescents. On the contrary, authoritarian parenting style leads the children to become rebellious and adopt problematic behavior. 84% exhibited authoritative parenting style, 11.3% exhibited authoritarian parenting style and 4.6% exhibited permissive parenting style.

Result table 2: Different parenting styles among males and females.

Parenting Styles	Percentage
Authoritative parenting style in females	87.6%
Authoritarian parenting style in males	15%
Authoritarian parenting style in females	12.3%
Permissive parenting style in males	5.5%
Permissive parenting style in females	7.8%

This table shows the relation between different parenting style practiced among males and females. 87.6% exhibited authoritative parenting style, 12.3% exhibited authoritarian parenting style and 7.8% permissive parenting style in females. In contrast, 72.7% exhibited authoritative parenting style, 15% exhibited authoritarian parenting style and 5.5% exhibited permissive parenting in males.

Discussion

The purpose of this study was to assess the influence of parenting styles on problematic behaviour of pre-adolescents. A sample of 150 students from various schools of Kanpur was taken. Purposive sampling process was followed while selecting the students. After the selection process, students were seated comfortably, and a good rapport was established with them. Parenting style scale and Problem behaviour checklist were conducted on them. Scoring was done according to the manual of the tests. After the scoring was done relationship between the parenting style and pre-adolescents problematic behaviour was interpreted.

Table 1 shows the sample distribution according to the gender, problem behaviour and parenting styles. 51% are males and 48% are females. Pre-adolescents having low behaviour problem and moderate behaviour problem are 83% and 16% respectively. The authoritative parenting style is most practiced parenting style and is more effective for children as it encourages better behaviour pattern among pre-adolescents. On the contrary, authoritarian parenting style leads the children to become rebellious and adopt problematic behaviour.

Authoritative parenting style show respect for the opinion of each children by allowing them to be different. This style of parenting often results in children who have high self-esteem and are independent, inquisitive, happy, assertive and interactive.

Authoritarian parenting is a style characterized by high demands and low responsiveness. Parents with an authoritarian style have very high expectations of their children yet provide very little in the way of feedback and nurturance. Children raised with authoritarian parenting style are easily annoyed, unhappy and show unpredictable changes in their mood.

Parents who exhibit permissive parenting style have very little or no control over the behavior of their children. These children may be disrespectful, disobedient, aggressive, irresponsible and defiant.

In table 2, the relation between different parenting styles exhibited among males and females is depicted. 87.6% exhibited authoritative parenting style, 12.3% exhibited authoritarian parenting style and 7.8% permissive parenting style in females. In contrast, 72.7% exhibited authoritative parenting style, 15% exhibited authoritarian parenting style and 5.5% exhibited permissive parenting in males.

Males and females with authoritative parenting style are well behaved, organized and are low at problematic behavior. On the contrary, authoritarian parenting style and permissive parenting style leads the males and females to become rebellious, disobedient, unhappy fearful, and adopt problematic behavior.

Pre-adolescents with authoritarian parenting style and permissive parenting style are low in self-esteem and confidence. They are defiant, lack self-discipline and ultimately lead to adopting problematic behavior.

Hoeve et.al (2009) conducted a study to determine the association between parenting and delinquency exists and what the magnitude of this linkage is. The strongest links were found for parental monitoring, psychological control, and negative aspects of support such as rejection and hostility, accounting for up to 11% of the variance in delinquency. Parent and child gender, child

age, informant on parenting, and delinquency type moderated the several effect sizes indicating that some parenting behaviours are more important for contexts or subsamples. Although both dimensions of warmth and support seem to be important and very few studies focused on parenting styles.

Sarvar (2016) determined the influence of parents and their parenting styles on children's behavior. The author examined different parenting styles to understand which style leads the children to be the juvenile delinquent that ultimately makes the children low academic achievers. In this paper, the researcher attempts to bring an original contribution to the identification of what is missing in the literature thus offering recommendations for future research on the role of parents in shaping the future of their children. Much research has been done on the role of parents in shaping the future of their children; however, more comprehensive research needs to be conducted on the role of parents and different parenting styles on their children's behavior. The findings disclosed that authoritarian parenting style leads the children to become rebellious and adopt problematic behavior due to more than necessary power exercised on children by parents. In contrast, authoritative parenting style is effective for children, as it encourages moderate parenting style.

Conclusion

From the above discussion it may be concluded that authoritarian parenting style leads the children to become rebellious and adopt problematic behavior. In contrast, authoritative parenting style is effective for children, as it encourages moderate parenting style. Parents who spend maximum time with their children reduce the probability of problematic behavior among pre-adolescents.

Implications

The present research may help in understanding the child better and to improve the parenting style to avoid problematic behavior among pre-adolescents. Intervention and training programs may be given to the parents of pre-adolescents so that they may be able to handle them properly. This study will provide impetus to generate new hypotheses.

Limitations

The limitations of the study were as follows-

- The sample size was small to generalize the results.
- The research work limits itself to state of Uttar Pradesh only.
- Only the parenting style and its impact on problematic behavior among pre-adolescents were assessed.

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