

Relationship between Parenting Styles and Adolescent Social Competence

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Abstract *The descriptive study aims at finding out the relationship between different parenting styles such as authoritative, authoritarian, permissive parenting style and the social competence of the adolescents. . The data have been collected from a reputed institution in Coimbatore using two questionnaires that are for parents and children. The simple random sampling , 43 samples had been taken for the study using sample size calculator. T-test, ANOVA, correlation, regression tests are used to analyse the relationships between the data. The study could find that the authoritative parenting style has a positive influence towards the social competence of the adolescents..*

I. Introduction

The study attempts to study the relationship between parenting style and adolescents' social competence. The relationship had been studied in between three parenting styles such as authoritarian, authoritative and permissive styles and social competence of the adolescents. The researcher has also attempted to assess the level of social competence such as pro social behaviour and emotion regulation among adolescents and also could find out parents' preference towards the above mentioned parenting styles. The social competence of the adolescents was done by the teachers and the preferred parenting style was assessed by the parents themselves. The researcher used statistical techniques like 't' test, ANOVA, correlation and regression analysis to bring out specific results for the study. The statistical results shows that children who have brought up with a authoritative parenting style as first preference with certain patterns of permissive parenting style show higher level of social competence skills. Parenting style plays a crucial and formative role in the development of their children especially their social, emotional such as affect regulation, cognitive such as fund of information, skills for processing or acquisition, perspective taking and behavioural such as conversation skills as well as pro social behaviour skills needed for successful social adaptation. In this study the researcher studies the social skills such as pro social behaviour and emotion regulation in relation with different parenting styles.

A parenting style is a psychological construct representing standard strategies that parents use in their child rearing. In this study the influence of three important is parenting styles such as authoritative authoritarian and permissive parenting styles on the social skills of the children. In the authoritative parent is demanding and responsive. When this style is developed properly, it will be fit to the descriptions propagative parenting and concerted cultivation whereas in authoritarian style the parent is demanding but not responsive. In permissive parenting style the parent is responsive but not demanding.

Research has found that the best adjusted children, especially in terms of social competence, have parents with an authoritative parenting style. These parents are able to balance high demands with emotional responsiveness and respect for their children's autonomy. Authoritative parents have high expectations of their children and use control, but the strict parent expects the child to unquestioningly accept parental judgments and allows the child little freedom of expression. Children of strict parents are apt to be reliant on the voice of authority and to be lacking in spontaneity. The authoritative parents permit the child enough freedom of expression so that he or she can develop a sense of independence. Permissive parent makes few demands and their children have been found to have difficulty controlling their impulses, and can be immature and reluctant to accept responsibility. Each of these parenting style have an influence on the social skills of the children. The study thus focus on finding the relationship between the mentioned parenting styles and the social competence of the adolescents.

Objectives

The present study aims to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To study the parenting styles that the parents practices in bringing up the children.
2. To study the level of social competence of adolescents.
3. To study the relationship between parenting style and social competence of adolescents.

II. Method and Procedure

Descriptive research design is used as it helps to describe the personal profile of the respondents and to describe the characteristics of different parenting style, characteristics of social competence among adolescents and to find the relationship among both the factors mentioned above. Owing to the time and research constraints the researcher has taken 43 respondents for the study. The researcher adopted Lottery without replacement method in Simple Random Sampling Technique for the study. The researcher has adopted two scales, they are parenting scale and social competence scale. Parenting Scale scores range from “Never” to “Always” on a 6-point scale. Social Competence Scale contains 19 items and is used to measure teachers’ perceptions of a child’s social competence of the urban elementary school children, It includes two subscales: pro social behaviour and emotion regulation.

Result and Discussion

Following are the responses got through the data collection. Most of the parents prefer authoritative parenting style in child rearing, and most of the respondents have moderately well social competence. Similar studies found that parents prefer authoritative parenting style for higher level of social competence. The current study also reveals that there is a relationship between parenting style and adolescent social competence.

Based on the data collected through the data collected from the respondents, their responses are tabulated, analysed and interpreted as follows:

The study reveals that among three parenting styles the authoritative parenting style has no significant difference with regard to their children’s social competence as its significant value (0.645) which is greater than 0.05, likewise the authoritarian parenting style has no significant difference with regard to their children’s social competence as its value (0.127) which is greater than 0.05 and the permissive parenting style also has no significant difference with regard to their children’s social competence as its significant value (0.205) which is greater than 0.05. Among three parenting style the permissive parenting style score has a positive effect (0.335) on adolescent social competence scores. The permissive parenting score is comparatively higher for those adolescents with higher level of social competence but the permissive parenting style score should always lay under the remaining parenting style. The authoritarian parenting style has a negative effect (-0.350) on the social competence of the children. It can be observed that a combination of authoritative and permissive parenting style displays a higher score in the social competence of the adolescents.

Suggestions

Following are the suggestions recommended based on the findings:

- ❖ It is essential for the parents to get informed regarding different types of parenting styles and its effect on children’s social competence.
- ❖ The parents should assess their child’s behaviour and social competence with help of experts and should take appropriate actions in the initial phases of child’s development.
- ❖ The parent’s should take the child to a psychiatrist who can help them out if there child displays any problems in their emotion regulation or pro social behaviour.
- ❖ The parents shouldn’t give more preference to authoritarian or permissive parenting style rather giving more preference to authoritative parenting style and having a balance in-between other parenting styles.

III. Conclusion

The researcher has found that the authoritative parenting style has a positive influence on the social competence of the adolescents. These parents are able to balance high demands with emotional responsiveness and respect for their child's autonomy. Both authoritarian and authoritative parents have high expectations of their children and use control, but the strict parents expect the child to unquestioningly accept parental judgments and allow the child little freedom of expression. Children of strict parents are apt to be reliant on the voice of authority and to be lacking in spontaneity. The authoritative parent permits the child enough freedom of expression so that he or she can develop a sense of independence whereas the permissive parenting style is more responsive and demand very few thus the children face much difficulty in controlling there impulses and not ready to accept responsibilities as they are not enough matured.

Regression analysis on Parenting style and adolescent Social competence

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	3.991	1.354		2.948	.005
Authoritative Parenting	-.091	.259	-.053	-.350	.729
Authoritarian Parenting	-.194	.089	-.350	-2.181	.035
Permissive Parenting	.221	.105	.335	2.101	.042

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