

Studies on adolescents influenced by the parenting styles adopted by parents in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The main propose of the study was to find out the parenting styles used by the parents to adolescents. The subjects who participated in the study included a random sample of 200 adolescents between the age group of 13-19 years. Interviewer schedule and standardised scales were used for data collection. To assess the Socio-demographic variables, such as gender, age, occupation of the adolescent's parents, education of the adolescent's parents, family income the interview schedule was prepared. Co-efficient of correlation was used in data analyses. Results of present study revealed that majority of parents were using positive parenting style towards their adolescents. It was also found that parenting styles were statistically significant with gender and residence area (rural/urban).

KEY WORDS : Parenting styles, Adolescents, Ecological variables

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INTRODUCTION

Parenting style is a complex activity that includes many specific behaviours that work individually and together to influence child's outcomes. Parenting style captures two important elements of parenting: parental responsiveness and parental demandingness. Parents may differ in how they try to control or socialize their children and the extent to which they do so. It is assumed that the primary role of all parents is to influence, teach, and control their children.

Parenting is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Parenting refers to the activity of raising a child rather than the biological relationship. Parenting style plays a very vital role in the upbringing of children. It is the duty of the parents to properly rear their children and up bring them to be a very responsible person in the society. Parenting is a very serious social phenomenon as it determines the future of

the children. Parenting as the style of child upbringing refers to a privilege or responsibility of mother and father, together or independently to prepare the child for society and culture (Veenes, 1973) which provides ample opportunity to a child to find roots, continuity and sense of belonging (Sirohi and Chauhan, 1991) and also serves as an effective agent of socialization. Though parenting, as a perception of the parents of their own attitude towards the child, happens to be of great significance in the dynamics of behaviour for socio- psychological researches, but how child perceives his/her parenting always remains a neglected phase of researches and should be deemed most important as he is the one whose process of socialization stands for furtherance (Bharadwaj, 1996).

METHODOLOGY

The sample comprised of 200 adolescents randomly selected from schools in two blocks namely, Bhawarna and Panchrukhi. Then school-to-school survey was done

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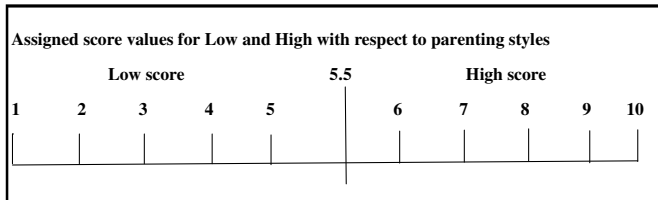
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to find out the number of adolescents in the age group of 13-19 years. Socio-demographic background variables, such as gender, age, occupation of the adolescent’s parents, education of the adolescent’s parents, family income were selected for the study. Parenting Styles Scale was used to assess parenting style. The statistical tools used were coefficient of correlation along with frequency and percentage.



Low score	Symbol	High score	Symbol
Rejection	A	Acceptance	A
Carelessness	B	Protection	B
Neglect	C	Indulgence	C
Utopian expectation	D	Realism	D
Lenient standards	E	Moralism	E
Freedom	F	Discipline	F
Faulty role expectation	G	Realistic role expectation	G
Marital conflict	H	Marital adjustment	H

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study have been discussed in detail as under :

Area of parenting styles of the male respondents:

The parenting styles of the male respondents have been presented in Table 1 and also depicted in Fig. 1. A cursory glance at the data revealed that almost all the male respondents’ parents (90.32%) used acceptance parenting style. Whereas, few of male respondents’ parents rejected their adolescents. There was less number of male respondents’ parents (45.16%) who showed the protecting nature towards their adolescents. More than half of male respondents’ parents (54.83%) were having carelessness nature for their adolescents. Indulgence of male respondents’ parents was found to be more (64.51%) than the neglect (35.48%). Almost all the male respondents’ parents (98.38%) showed an attitude of realism for their adolescents. Whereas, only 1.61 per cent of male

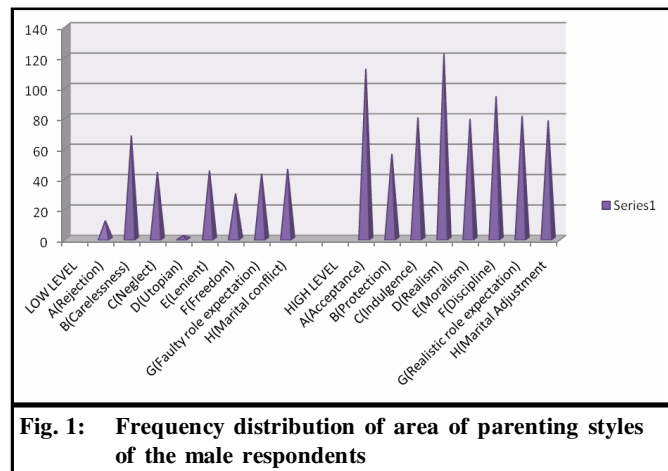


Fig. 1: Frequency distribution of area of parenting styles of the male respondents

Table 1: Frequency distribution of area of parenting styles of the male respondents (n=124)

Low Score	1	2	3	4	5	Total
A(Rejection)	0(0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.80)	1 (0.80)	10 (8.06)	12 (9.67)
B(Carelessness)	9 (7.25)	4 (3.22)	26 (20.97)	17 (13.71)	12 (9.67)	68 (54.83)
C(Neglect)	1 (0.80)	3 (2.41)	3 (2.41)	8 (6.45)	29 (23.38)	44 (35.48)
D(Utopian)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	2 (1.61)	2 (1.61)
E(Lenient)	1 (0.80)	1 (0.80)	4 (3.22)	5 (4.03)	34 (27.41)	45 (36.29)
F(Freedom)	2 (1.61)	0 (0.00)	2 (1.61)	2 (1.61)	24 (19.35)	30 (24.19)
G(Faulty role expectation)	2 (1.61)	1 (0.80)	2 (1.61)	10 (8.06)	28 (22.58)	43 (34.67)
H(Marital conflict)	4 (3.22)	3 (2.41)	5 (4.03)	10 (8.06)	24 (19.35)	46 (37.09)
High score	6	7	8	9	10	Total
A(Acceptance)	34 (27.41)	56 (45.16)	22 (17.74)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	112 (90.32)
B(Protection)	34 (27.41)	12 (9.67)	10 (8.06)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	56 (45.16)
C(Indulgence)	24 (19.35)	37 (29.83)	11 (8.87)	5 (4.03)	3 (2.41)	80 (64.51)
D(Realism)	20 (16.12)	31 (25.00)	24 (19.35)	28 (22.58)	19 (15.32)	122 (98.38)
E(Moralism)	35 (28.22)	32 (25.80)	12 (9.67)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	79 (63.70)
F(Discipline)	23 (18.54)	35 (28.22)	28 (22.58)	8 (6.45)	0 (0.00)	94 (75.80)
G(Realistic role expectation)	40 (32.25)	34 (27.41)	7 (5.64)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	81 (65.32)
H(Marital adjustment)	32 (25.80)	29 (23.38)	17 (13.71)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	78 (62.90)

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicate percentages of male respondents

respondents' parents revealed the utopian behaviour as reported by the respondents. Moralism was found to be high (63.70%) in case of male respondents' parents. On the other side, lenientness was found low (36.29%) in male respondents' parents. About three fourth of male respondents' parents (75.80%) maintained the discipline in their adolescents. However, there were some parents (24.19%) who gave freedom to their adolescents. Most of (65.32%) male respondents' parents used the realistic role expectations as reported by the respondents. Whereas, 34.67 per cent of male respondents' parents were having the faulty role expectation. There were 62.90 per cent male respondents' parents who had marital adjustment. However, 37.09 per cent male respondents' parents caused marital conflict. A significant relationship between male respondents and responsive behaviour of parents was observed in present study. This may be probably due to the fact that parents' upbringing their children in such a manner so that they become responsible person in the society. Winsler *et al.* (2005) also observed that fathers perceived their spouses to be more authoritative, more permissive, and less authoritarian than themselves, whereas mothers perceived themselves to be more authoritative than fathers. They also found that parents who shared similar parenting styles were more accurate at reporting on their spouses' parenting styles than the parents with differing styles.

Area of parenting styles of the female respondents:

The results of study on parenting style of the female

respondents given in Table 2 depict that majority of the female respondents' parents (98.68%) showed the acceptance towards their adolescents. However, a very few female respondents' parents (1.31%) had the rejecting behaviour. On the other side, 59.21 per cent female respondents' parents were having protecting nature as reported by the respondents. Whereas, 40.78 per cent female respondents' parents were careless for their adolescents. Indulgence was found higher (78.94%) in female respondents' parents. However, there were also some female respondents' parents who had neglecting behaviour towards their adolescents. Realistic attitude was followed by almost all the female respondents' parents (97.36%). There were few female respondents' parents (2.63%) who were utopian for their adolescents. Most of the female respondents' parents (80.26%) were moralistic as reported by the respondents. Contrary to this, some female respondents' parents (19.37%) were found to be lenient towards their adolescents. Majority of female respondents' parents (81.57%) maintained discipline in their adolescents. Whereas, 18.42 per cent gave freedom to their adolescents. Majority of female respondents' parents (80.26%) were having realistic nature as reported by the respondents. Whereas, 19.37 per cent female respondents' parents showed faulty role expectations toward their adolescents. Almost all the female respondents' parents (93.42%) had marital adjustment. However, some female respondents' parents (6.57%) were having marital conflict. These results have been also depicted in Fig. 2. Present study revealed that majority of

Table 2 : Frequency distribution of area of parenting styles of the female respondents (n=76)

Low score	1	2	3	4	5	Total
A(Rejection)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (1.31)	1 (1.31)
B(Carelessness)	3 (3.94)	3 (3.94)	2 (2.63)	11 (8.87)	12 (15.78)	31 (40.78)
C(Neglect)	1 (1.31)	1 (1.31)	1 (1.31)	4 (3.22)	9 (11.84)	16 (21.05)
D(Utopian)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	2 (2.63)	2 (2.63)
E(Lenient)	0 (0.00)	1 (1.31)	1 (1.31)	2 (1.61)	11 (14.47)	15 (19.73)
F(Freedom)	0 (0.00)	1 (1.31)	2 (2.63)	1 (0.80)	10 (13.15)	14 (18.42)
G(Faulty role expectation)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	7 (5.64)	8 (10.52)	15 (19.73)
H(Marital conflict)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	5 (6.57)	5 (6.57)
High score	6	7	8	9	10	Total
A(Acceptance)	12 (15.78)	42 (55.26)	21 (27.63)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	75 (98.68)
B(Protection)	26 (34.21)	15 (19.73)	4 (5.26)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	45 (59.21)
C(Indulgence)	24 (31.57)	26 (34.21)	10 (13.15)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	60 (78.94)
D(Realism)	6 (7.89)	16 (21.05)	9 (11.84)	21 (27.63)	22 (28.94)	74 (97.36)
E(Moralism)	31 (40.78)	17 (22.36)	13 (17.10)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	61 (80.26)
F(Discipline)	11 (14.47)	28 (36.84)	22 (28.94)	1 (1.31)	0 (0.00)	62 (81.57)
G(Realistic role expectation)	24 (31.57)	32 (42.10)	5 (6.57)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	61 (80.26)
H(Marital adjustment)	25 (32.89)	20 (26.31)	26 (34.21)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	71 (93.42)

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicate percentages of female respondents

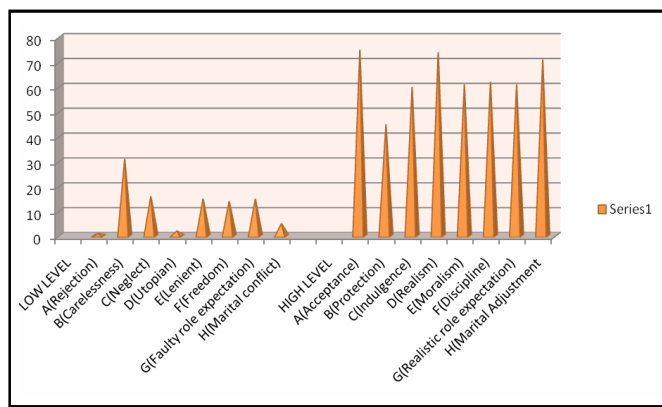


Fig. 2: Frequency distribution of area of parenting styles of the female respondents

the female respondents’ parents showed positive parenting style towards them. This may be because of the reason that parents and children interactions can include positive behaviours such as showing support and interest and communicating openly. Vig and Jaswal (2009) also documented the similar results. They found that parents perceived similar kind of relationship irrespective of the gender of the child. They also concluded that parents reported high level of acceptance, marital adjustment, realistic role expectations and moderate level of protection, indulgence, utopian expectations, severed moralism and severe discipline for their teenage children. They also observed high degree of congruence between perception of fathers’ and mothers’ across all the dimensions.

Relationship between parenting styles and ecological variables:

The results of correlation showing relationship between ecological variables and parenting style have been presented in Table 3. Further on assessing the relationship

Table 3 : Correlation between ecological variables with parenting styles of the respondents

Variables/ Categories	Parenting style (PS)
Age	-0.052
Sex	0.270**
Occupation of father	0.010
Qualification of father	-0.008
Occupation of mother	-0.012
Qualification of mother	0.015
Family income	-0.060
Family type	0.029
Caste	0.012
Religion	-0.003
Rural/Urban	0.114**
Ordinal position	-0.036

** indicates significance of value at P=0.05

between parenting style and socio-economic variable, it was observed that only the sex of respondents and residence area (rural/urban) of respondents were found to be significantly positively correlated with parenting style of respondents.

The present findings are also supported by Dwairy *et al.* (2006) who observed three combined parenting patterns: *inconsistent* (permissive and authoritarian), *controlling* (authoritarian and authoritative), and *flexible* (authoritative and permissive) and found that the mean score of the authoritarian style was higher among males, whereas, the mean score of the authoritative style was higher among females. They also observed the effects of urbanization, parents’ education, and the family economic level on parenting. Rai (2000) was also of the same view who studied perceived parenting style among boys and girls and observed significant sex differences.

Conclusion:

Such parents are likely to be more effective reinforcing agents, praising the child for behaviours that meet their expectation and making more successful use of disapproval, which works best when applied by a nurturant parent who can withstand counter pressures from the child. Finally, parents who rely on authoritative techniques make demands that are sensitive and responsive to their children’s developing’ capacities. By adjusting expectations so they fit with children’s ability to take responsibility for their own behaviour, these parents communicate to children a sense that they are competent beings who can do things successfully for themselves.

Parenting styles showed a significant correlation with ecological variables of respondents. Sex and residence area (rural/urban) of respondents showed a significant positive correlation with parenting style. Parenting styles showed a significant positive regression with sex of the respondents.

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