



Importance Of Parenting Style In Child Development

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Abstract

The paper is going to assess the importance of parenting style in every aspect of child development. As we know that parents are the most precious gift of God for us, they play the biggest role in our development. Parents always play very crucial role in kid's mental, emotional, physical, social, financial and career development. Parenting style is defined as a constellation of parents' attitudes and behaviors toward children and an emotional climate in which the parents' behaviors are expressed (Darling & Steinberg, 1993). A good or positive parenting helps in encouraging and motivating their kids to learn as well as cooperates child to be positive, healthy and good life long learner. The way of parenting supports every step of kid's life, they train with unconditional love and sometimes very hard style for the future challenges. Consequently, there is tried to evaluate parenting styles to understand which style leads the children to be healthy (mentally, emotionally, physically and socially) that ultimately makes the children high level of successful, happy and achievers in life. It might be said that parenting and child development go hand in hand. The proverbs that the apple does not fall far from the tree and that the branch grows as the twig grows can well-describe the effects of parenting styles on child growth and development.

Key Words: Parenting style, Social development, Emotion, Unconditional love

Introduction

Developmental psychologists have long been interested in how parenting style influences child development. However, there is very difficult to find actual cause-and-effect relationship between specific actions of parents and later behavior of children. A parenting style is a psychological construct representing standard strategies that parents use in their child upbringing or rearing. The quality of parenting can be more essential than the quantity of time spent with the child. Usually, our society assumed that parenting came naturally and parents just knew what to do when it came to discipline, nurturing, toilet training, esteem building and so forth, but such kind of perception has been slowly changing. Nowadays, parents are quicker to acknowledge that they don't always have the answers or that they may not want to raise their children as they were raised. Societal changes have made it more difficult to rely on parenting techniques from the past. The rapid change of social world is increasing as India opens up to western influences. The root cause of most of the mental health problems of children and adolescents are related with parenting styles adopted in their families. So the parents should be more aware of the different parenting styles and their impacts on child development. (Sharma, 2003).

Researchers have assessed that there are links between parenting styles and its effect on children's cognitive, emotional and behavioural development. It is well known that a good parenting prepares children to meet the demands of the specific culture in which they live. We can try to understand which parenting styles are effective to prepare the children to meet the society. Darling and Steinberg (1993) defined parenting style as overall climate of parent child interactions. It is an affective context of sorts that sets the tone for the parent's interactions with the child. Parenting style is a determinant factor in child development. It affects psychological and social functioning of the children. Parenting style is largely affected by the influence of one's own parents' temperament, educational achievement, culture, and socioeconomic status as well. Temperament of the parent and the child affects style of parenting, and the mother and father may differ in style as well (Belsky, 2005).

Dimensions and Styles of Parenting

There are specially two dimensions of parenting, first, parental acceptance or responsiveness which refers to the extent to which parents intentionally foster individuality, self-regulation, and self-assertion by being attuned, supportive, and acquiescent to children's special needs and demands (Baumrind, 1991). Second, parental demandingness which refers to the claims parents make on children to become integrated into the family whole, by their maturity demands, supervision, disciplinary efforts and willingness to confront the child who disobeys (Baumrind, 1991). During the early 1960s, psychologist Diana Baumrind conducted a famous study on more than 100 preschool-age children. Using naturalistic observation, parental interviews, and other research methods, she identified some important patterns of parenting styles should be

considered. The authoritarian, authoritative and permissive parenting styles were originally identified and defined by Baumrind (1967, 1991). There has been found that preschool children raised by authoritative parents were the best adjusted. They were cheerful, socially responsible, self reliant, achievement oriented and cooperative with adults and peers. In Authoritarian style of parenting, children are expected to follow the strict rules established by the parents. Failure to follow such rules usually results in punishment. Authoritarian parents don't explain the reasoning behind these rules. If asked to explain, the parent might simply reply, "Because I said so." While these parents have high demands, they are not very responsive to their children. They expect their children to behave exceptionally and not make errors, yet they provide very little direction about what their children should do or avoid in the future. Mistakes are punished, often quite harshly, yet their children are often left wondering exactly what they did wrong. According to Baumrind, these parents are obedience- and status-oriented, and expect their orders to be obeyed without explanation. Parents who exhibit this style are often described as domineering and dictatorial. Their approach to parenting is one of "spare the rod, spoil the child." Despite having such strict rules and high expectations, they do little to explain the reasoning behind their demands and simply expect children to obey without question.

Children of permissive parents were very immature. They had difficulty controlling their impulses and were disobedient and rebellious when asked to do something that conflicted with their momentary desires. They were also overly demanding and dependent on adults, and they showed less persistence on tasks at preschool than children whose parents exerted more control. The link between permissive parenting and dependent, non-achieving behaviour was especially strong for boys (Berk, 1998).

In addition to these three major styles of parenting, Maccoby and Martin proposed a fourth style that is known as uninvolved or neglectful parenting. An uninvolved parenting style is characterized by few demands, low responsiveness, and very little communication. While these parents fulfill the child's basic needs, they are generally detached from their child's life. They might make sure that their kids are fed and have shelter, but offer little to nothing in the way of guidance, structure, rules, or even support. In extreme cases, these parents may even reject or neglect the needs of their children. They have a tendency to become hostile and antisocial in adolescents (Sigelman, 1999). The common thinking is that authoritative pattern of parenting style is best for child development. But it may vary according to culture and societal changes (Myers-Walls et al., 2006). From one point of view there are many parenting styles as there are parents. One helpful grouping is provided in E. E. LeMasters' listing of five parenting styles, such as the martyr, the pal, the police officer, the teacher-counsellor, and the athletic coach (Lamanna and Riedmann, 1988). Individual parents probably combine elements of two or more of these styles in their own personal parenting styles.

Each of these parenting styles has its own advantages and disadvantages. The parent as martyr face some problems like, the goals the martyring parents set are impossible to carry out and the parent always feel guilty. The parent as pal style points out that there are some relationship risks. If things do not go well, parents may want to retract to a more formal, authoritarian style of parenting. But once they have established

a buddy relationship, it is difficult to regain authority. Children are more likely to be influenced by their parents' knowledge and expertise or wish to identify with parent's values than by the parents authority. The key is respect and a close relationship; habitual punishment and the policing of adolescents are far less effective modes of socialization. The style of parent as teacher counsellor put the needs of the child above the parent's needs. It may be difficult for most parents to always be there to stimulate the children. Children also have inherited intellectual capacities and needs. Instead of this parenting style an interactive perspective regards the influence between parent and child as mutual and reciprocal. The athletic coach style recognizes that parents, like coaches have their own personalities and needs. Once individual become parents, they remain in this role the rest of their lives.

The influences of any given parenting style on any given child depends on many factors that interact with each other, including age, sex, and temperament, parents' personality characteristics, personal history, economic circumstances, the values of the culture etc. (Cole et al., 2005). Children who have been raised in authoritative homes score higher on a variety of measures of competence, social development, selfperceptions, and mental health than those raised in authoritarian, permissive, or neglectful homes. This is true not only in childhood, but also during adolescence, as evidenced by higher academic achievement and psychosocial development, and fewer behavioural problems (Ballantine, 2001). Children develop best when they have love and limits. If they are indulged or neglected and given little guidance, they won't learn self control and may become quite selfish, unruly and lacking in direction.

Conclusions: Consequently, The pace of social change is increasing as India opens up to western influences. Societal changes have made it more difficult to rely on parenting techniques from the past the importance of parenting style in every aspect of child development. The root cause of most of the mental health problems of children and adolescents are related with parenting styles adopted in their families. So the parents should be more aware of the different parenting styles and their impacts on child development. Socio-emotional development of the child is influenced by the type of parenting style used in families. Parents, teachers and the mental health professionals must give more importance to the parenting styles.

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