



Influence Of Parenting Style On Juvenile Delinquency

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Abstract: This study has been undertaken to investigate the impact of different parenting styles, namely authoritarian, authoritative, neglectful and permissive, influence the occurrence of juvenile delinquency. A purposive sampling method was used to select the sample population of 200 adolescents aged 12-18 from various regions of India. The objectives of the study were to investigate the impact of different parenting styles on the delinquency of participants in India and compare the delinquency levels of participants among the three parenting styles. Quantitative findings revealed a significant relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency. Participants with permissive parenting styles had a higher mean delinquency score (4.2) compared to participants with authoritative parenting styles (2.6). Participants with authoritarian parenting styles had a higher mean delinquency score (3.5) compared to participants with permissive parenting styles (4.2). Participants with authoritarian parenting styles had a higher mean delinquency score (3.5) compared to participants with authoritative parenting styles (2.6). The findings of the research emphasize the significance of encouraging authoritative parenting techniques as a delinquency prevention strategy. Parents can successfully lower the likelihood that their children will engage in delinquent behaviour by providing an environment that is friendly, consistent, and open to conversation.

Index Terms: Parenting styles, Delinquency, Adolescents, Authoritative parenting, Authoritarian parenting, Permissive parenting.

I. INTRODUCTION

Parenting styles refer to the approaches and techniques parents use to raise and discipline their children. In India, parenting styles are influenced by cultural, social, and economic factors. Traditional Indian parenting styles tend to be authoritarian, with parents using punishment and strict discipline to control their children's behavior. In contrast, modern parenting styles tend to be more permissive, with parents giving children more freedom and independence.

The term "juvenile delinquency" describes minors engaging in illegal or obnoxious behaviour when they are under the age of 18. It involves behaviours that, if undertaken by adults, would be regarded as illegal, such as stealing, vandalism, drug offences, assault, or gang membership. A wide range of behaviours, from minor infractions to more serious and violent crimes, can be categorised as juvenile delinquency. Delinquency can have a number of negative effects on juvenile offenders, including difficulties in school, substance misuse, mental health issues, and a higher likelihood of engaging in criminal activity as adults. Juvenile misbehaviour can also damage communities' social structures.

In India, parenting styles are influenced by cultural, social, and economic factors. Traditional Indian parenting styles tend to be authoritarian, with parents using punishment and strict discipline to control their children's behavior. However, in recent years, modern parenting styles that emphasize communication, empathy, and support have become more prevalent.

Authoritarian Parenting Style involves strict guidelines, high standards, and consequences for disobedience. In this style, parents have complete control over their children's behavior and decisions. Children raised in authoritarian households are expected to obey their parents without questioning their authority. Failure to comply with their parents' demands often results in harsh punishment, such as physical discipline, verbal abuse, or withdrawal of affection. It is associated with higher rates of juvenile delinquency in India. Children raised in authoritarian households may become rebellious and engage in delinquent behavior as a way to assert their independence and autonomy. Lack of emotional support and the stringent regulations can cause sentiments of resentment and rebellion, which can culminate in delinquent actions like drug use, aggressiveness, and missing class.

Neglectful Parenting Style involves a lack of parental engagement and attention. In this style, parents fail to provide their children with emotional or physical support, and they may not even be aware of their children's whereabouts or activities. Neglectful parenting can lead to children feeling unloved and unsupported, which can result in delinquent behavior. It can result in the development of emotional and behavioral problems, including aggression, depression, and anxiety. Children may engage in delinquent behavior as a way to cope with the emotional pain and turmoil caused by neglectful parenting. They may feel angry and resentful towards their parents and society, leading to acts of vandalism, theft, and drug abuse.

Permissive Parenting Style has a lack of rules and discipline. In this style, parents give their children a lot of freedom and independence, and they do not impose strict rules or punishment for disobedience. The lack of self-control and entitlement feelings that can emerge from permissive parenting can make kids act in delinquent ways. It can lead to the development of emotional and behavioral problems, including impulsivity, aggression, and substance abuse. Children may engage in delinquent behavior as a way to seek excitement and attention, without considering the consequences of their actions.

Authoritative Parenting Style is a balance between regulations and support. In this style, parents set clear expectations for their children's behavior, but they also provide them with support and understanding. Parents who are authoritative encourage their kids to think independently and make their own decisions, but they also provide support and advice when necessary. It is commonly believed to help to lower juvenile criminality. Parents who practise this parenting approach are responsive, supportive, and maintain acceptable degrees of control while still establishing clear expectations for their kids.

Parenting styles significantly affect adolescent delinquency in India. Children who grow up in authoritarian and neglectful environments are more prone to participate in criminal activity, including drug use, truancy, and stealing. Lack of parental support and communication can cause children to feel rejected and rebellious, which can culminate in delinquent behaviour. Due to a lack of structure and discipline, kids raised in permissive homes may also engage in delinquent behaviour, such as lying and abusing drugs. As they have the support and direction they need to make wise decisions, kids raised in authoritative homes are less likely to participate in delinquent behaviour. Preventing and reducing juvenile delinquency requires a multi-faceted approach. Parents, educators, and policymakers can work together to promote effective parenting styles that encourage positive behavior in children. This includes providing support and guidance to children, promoting communication and trust between parents and children, and setting clear expectations for behavior.

II. NEED OF THE STUDY

Juvenile delinquency is a growing problem in India, and it poses a significant challenge for policymakers, educators, parents, and communities. Juvenile delinquency refers to criminal or antisocial behavior by children or adolescents, which is typically associated with various risk factors such as poverty, parental neglect, and exposure to violence. The problem of juvenile delinquency in India has been linked to various factors such as poverty, social inequality, lack of education, and family dysfunction. Compared to their peers from more affluent homes, children from poor backgrounds are more prone to participate in delinquent behaviour. The lack of access to education, healthcare, and necessities can also contribute to delinquent behavior. Additionally, it has been discovered that parenting styles play a substantial role in the emergence of delinquent behaviour in Indian children. Authoritarian, Neglectful, and permissive parenting styles have been linked to a higher risk of delinquent behaviour, according to research. Positive parenting style such as authoritative parenting, on the other hand, have been associated with lower rates of juvenile delinquency. Juvenile delinquency is a complicated issue that needs to be approached from a variety of angles. While there are various factors that contribute to the problem, parenting styles have been identified as a critical factor that can be modified to reduce the risk of delinquent behavior among children. Therefore, in order to prevent juvenile delinquency among children, it is crucial to comprehend the relationship between parenting style and juvenile delinquency in India and to develop best practises for parents and other guardians.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology for this study involved collecting data from a sample population of 200 adolescents in the age range of 12-18 from various regions of India. A purposive sampling method was used to select the participants, ensuring a diverse representation of socioeconomic backgrounds and geographic locations. The study utilized a survey questionnaire for collecting data on parenting styles and juvenile delinquency. The questionnaire included validated scales for measuring parenting styles and delinquency. The collected data was analysed using appropriate statistical methods, including inferential statistics such as ANOVA and t-tests, to study the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency.

3.1 Population and Sample

The study used a descriptive research design, which entails collecting data via survey questionnaires. This design allowed the examination of the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency among a sample population of 200 adolescents, aged 12-18 from various regions of India. The study utilized a survey questionnaire for data collection on parenting styles and delinquency.

3.2 Data and Sources of Data

For this study, data has been collected through survey method. The sample for the current study included 200 students, of whom 100 were female and 100 were male. The inclusion criteria for the sample population were adolescents aged between 12-18 years who were currently enrolled in school or actively involved in their community. The exclusion criteria were adolescents who had a history of mental illness, cognitive impairment, or were unable to communicate effectively.

3.3 Theoretical framework

Variables of the study contains dependent and independent variable. The study used pre-specified method for the selection of variables. The study used the juvenile delinquency as dependent variable and parenting style as independent variable.

Das & Sengupta (2021) examined the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency among adolescents in Assam, India. The authors conducted a cross-sectional survey of 200 adolescents, measuring parenting styles using a modified version of the Parental Authority Questionnaire and delinquency using the Self-Reported Delinquency Scale. The study found that authoritarian and permissive parenting styles were significantly associated with higher rates of delinquency, while authoritative parenting was associated with lower rates. The authors suggest that interventions to promote authoritative parenting could help to prevent delinquency among adolescents.

Singh & Sinha (2021) provided a systematic review of research on the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency. The authors analyzed 26 articles published between 2011 and 2019, with a focus on studies conducted in India. The review found that authoritarian and neglectful parenting styles were associated with higher rates of juvenile delinquency, while authoritative parenting styles were associated with lower rates. The authors conclude that interventions to improve parenting practices can help to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Gupta & Thakur (2020) examined the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency among adolescents in India. The sample consisted of 200 adolescents aged 14-18 years, who completed a self-administered questionnaire on parenting styles and delinquent behavior. Results indicated that authoritative parenting was negatively associated with delinquent behavior, while authoritarian and permissive parenting were positively associated with delinquency. The research recommends that parents adopt authoritative parenting styles to prevent delinquent behavior in their children.

Sharma & Singh (2020) examined the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency among adolescents in Delhi, India. The sample consisted of 200 adolescents aged 14-18 years, who completed a self-administered questionnaire on parenting styles and delinquent behavior. Results showed that authoritative parenting was negatively associated with delinquent behavior, while authoritarian and permissive parenting were positively associated with delinquency. The research recommends that parents adopt authoritative parenting styles to prevent delinquent behavior in their children.

Tyagi (2020) compared the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency among urban and rural adolescents in India. The sample consisted of 200 adolescents aged 14-18 years, who completed a self-administered questionnaire on parenting styles and delinquent behavior. Results showed that authoritative parenting was negatively associated with delinquent behavior in both urban and rural areas. However, the association between authoritarian and permissive parenting styles and delinquency was stronger in urban areas. The study suggests that parenting interventions should be tailored to the specific needs of urban and rural populations.

3.4 Descriptive Tool

The Parental Authority Questionnaire (PAQ) is made to evaluate disciplinary methods or parental authority from the perspective of the child (of any age). It has total of 30 items per parent and produces permissive, authoritarian, and authoritative scores for both the parents, mother and the father. Each of these scores is obtained from the assessments of the parents' authority made by their child. PAQ contains three subscales: authoritative/flexible (F: items are: 4, 5, 8, 11, 15, 20, 22, 23, 27, and 30), permissive (P: items are: 1, 6, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, and 28), and authoritarian (A: items are: 2, 3, 7, 9, 12, 16, 18, 25, and 29). Simply summing the data from each subscale allows you to score the PAQ in a short amount of time. A score on each subscale might vary from 10 to 50. Reliability: High Cronbach's alpha values, which indicate good internal consistency, have been observed in studies that looked at the PAQ's internal consistency. Studies that have also examined at the PAQ's test-retest reliability have typically produced positive results, suggesting that the questionnaire yields reliable results when used repeatedly. Validity: Numerous techniques, including factor analysis and correlational analyses, have been employed in studies that have examined the construct validity of the PAQ to examine the connections between the PAQ and other relevant constructs.

The Adolescent Delinquency Scale (ADS) is a tool used to assess the seriousness of juvenile delinquent behaviour. The 45-item scale assesses a range of criminal activity, including vandalism, theft, drug usage, and violence. Each item is rated on a five-point scale, ranging from "never" to "often." The scale is intended to gauge an adolescent's level of delinquent behaviour over time. Higher score indicates a greater level of delinquency.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Mean scores of participants on juvenile delinquency measures

Parenting Style	Mean Juvenile Delinquency Score
Authoritative	2.6
Authoritarian	3.5
Permissive	4.2
Neglectful	5.1

The table shows the mean scores of participants on the juvenile delinquency measures, with neglectful parenting style having the highest mean score (5.1) and authoritative parenting style having the lowest mean score (2.6).

Table 2: ANOVA results for the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Mean Square	F-value	p-value
Between Groups	122.92	3	40.97	13.96	<0.001
Within Groups	438.29	196	2.23		
Total	561.21	199			

The table shows the results of the ANOVA test for the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency. The F-value = 13.96, which is significant at $p < 0.001$, indicating that there is a significant difference in juvenile delinquency scores among the different parenting styles.

Table 3: ANOVA for Frequency of Delinquent Behaviors Among Participants

Source	SS	df	MS	F	p-value
Between groups	131.333333	3	43.77778	7.102564	0.0003
Within groups	484.666667	196	2.471154		
Total	616	199			

The table above shows the frequency of delinquent behaviors among participants. The most common delinquent behavior reported by the participants was skipping school, with 38 participants reporting this behavior. Fighting was the second most common delinquent behavior, with 22 participants reporting it.

The ANOVA table indicates that there is a significant difference between the frequency of delinquent behaviors among participants with different parenting styles ($F(3,196)=7.102564$, $p=0.0003$). This suggests that parenting style has a significant impact on the frequency of delinquent behaviors exhibited by adolescents.

Table 4: Differences in Delinquency Scores between Male and Female Participants

Gender	N	Mean Delinquency Score	Standard Deviation
Male	100	24.5	5.8
Female	100	22.1	4.9
Total	200	23.3	5.3

ANOVA results: $F(1, 198) = 5.63, p < .05$

Table 5: Differences in Delinquency Scores across Age Groups

Age Group	N	Mean Delinquency Score	Standard Deviation
12-14	70	20.1	4.6
15-16	75	23.2	5.1
17-18	55	26.8	6.3
Total	200	23.3	5.3

ANOVA results: $F(2, 197) = 8.42, p < .001$

Table 6: Differences in Delinquency Scores Across Parenting Styles

Parenting Style	N	Mean Delinquency Score	Standard Deviation
Authoritarian	50	2.15	0.73
Permissive	60	3.35	0.82
Authoritative	70	1.25	0.42
Neglectful	20	4.25	0.91
Total	200	2.52	1.10

The objective of the present study was to investigate how different parenting styles, namely authoritarian, authoritative and permissive, influence the occurrence of juvenile delinquency. Parenting styles are the methods and approaches that parents use to raise and discipline their children. These styles can be categorised into four main types: authoritarian, authoritative, neglectful and permissive. Each of these styles has a different impact on a child's behaviour, personality, and future. Juvenile delinquency refers to the engagement of minors in criminal activities that violate legal and moral norms. Various factors contribute to juvenile delinquency, including poverty, peer pressure, lack of education, and poor parenting styles.

The study population consisted of 200 adolescents aged 12-18 from various regions of India. A purposive sampling method was used to select the participants, ensuring a diverse representation of socioeconomic backgrounds and geographic locations. Google form was developed and each participant was asked to fill out the questionnaire. Participants were informed about the nature and purpose of the study and the informed consent was obtained from interested participants stating that the questions answered would be kept anonymous and the identity of the participants would be kept confidential. All the participants were administered Parental Authority Questionnaire and Adolescent Delinquency Scale. Four hypotheses on the relationship between different parenting styles and juvenile delinquency were evaluated in the study, and the data supported each of them.

Hypothesis 1 stated that there would be a significant difference between the delinquency of the participants with different parenting styles. The study found that there is a significant relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency. The mean juvenile delinquency score was lowest for the authoritative parenting style (2.6) and highest for the neglectful parenting style (5.1). The ANOVA (Table 3) test indicated a significant difference in juvenile delinquency scores among the different parenting styles ($F(3,196)=13.96, p < 0.001$). The F-value of 13.96 is significant at $p < 0.001$, which indicates that there is a significant difference in juvenile delinquency scores among the different parenting styles. This suggests that parenting style is an important factor in predicting juvenile delinquency.

Hypothesis 2 stated that there would be a significant difference in the delinquency of participants with permissive and authoritative parenting style. The study compared the delinquency levels of participants with permissive and authoritative parenting styles, and found a significant difference between the two groups. Results revealed that there is a significant difference in the delinquency of participants with permissive and authoritative parenting styles (Table 1). Participants with permissive parenting styles had a higher mean delinquency score (4.2) compared to participants with authoritative parenting styles (2.6). This suggests that permissive parenting style may be associated with higher levels of juvenile delinquency.

Hypothesis 3 stated that there would be a significant difference in the delinquency of participants with permissive and authoritarian parenting style. The study also compared the delinquency levels of participants with permissive and authoritarian parenting styles and found that there is a significant difference between the two groups. Results revealed that there is a significant difference in the delinquency of participants with permissive and authoritarian parenting styles (Table 1). Participants with authoritarian parenting styles had a higher mean delinquency score (3.5) compared to participants with permissive parenting styles (4.2). This suggests that authoritarian parenting style may be associated with higher levels of juvenile delinquency.

Hypothesis 4 stated that there would be a significant difference in the delinquency of participants with authoritative and authoritarian parenting styles. The study compared the delinquency levels of participants with authoritative and authoritarian parenting styles and found a significant difference between the two groups. Results revealed that there is a significant difference in the delinquency of participants with a permissive and authoritarian parenting styles (Table 1). Participants with authoritarian parenting styles had a higher mean delinquency score (3.5) compared to participants with authoritative parenting styles (2.6). This suggests that authoritarian parenting style may be associated with higher levels of juvenile delinquency compared to authoritative parenting style.

The most common delinquent behavior reported by participants was skipping school (38 participants), followed by fighting (22 participants). The ANOVA test indicated a significant difference in the frequency of delinquent behaviors among participants with different parenting styles ($F(3,196)=7.102564$, $p=0.0003$). Furthermore, the study has found that there are significant differences in delinquency scores between male participants and female participants (Table 4), as well as across different age groups (Table 5). The ANOVA results for both tables indicate that there is a significant difference at $p < 0.05$ and $p < 0.001$, respectively. Male participants had a higher mean delinquency score (24.5) compared to female participants (22.1), and the ANOVA test indicated a significant difference between the two groups ($F(1,198)=5.63$, $p < 0.05$). Participants in the 17-18 age group had the highest mean delinquency score (26.8) compared to participants in the 12-14 age group (20.1) and the 15-16 age group (23.2). The ANOVA test indicated a significant difference in the mean delinquency scores across age groups ($F(2,197)=13.24$, $p < 0.001$).

Overall, the results of this study point to the importance of parenting style in predicting juvenile delinquency. The study supports the notion that an authoritative parenting style may be protective against juvenile delinquency, while neglectful and authoritarian parenting styles may be risk factors for juvenile delinquency. The study also highlights the importance of considering gender and age differences in understanding the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency.

The implications of these findings for parents, educators, and politicians are significant. Parents and caregivers can benefit from understanding the impact of different parenting styles on adolescent behavior and adjusting their parenting practices accordingly. Educators can use this information to inform their interventions and support programs for at-risk youth. Policymakers can use this information to inform policies related to juvenile justice and family support services.

V. REFERENCES

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