



# PARENTING STYLE AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF CHILDREN: A Study among Working Parents in Ernakulum District

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**Abstract:** Several factors affect academic performance of children and parenting style is a significant factor. The current study has been done with the purpose of investigating the relationship between parenting styles, academic achievement of children at Ernakulum district. This study examined the five type of parenting style and the children's academic performance. This is a quantitative study using descriptive approach. The samples are collected by using stratified random sampling and lottery technique from one among the municipality of Ernakulum district. This study used descriptive statistics and the outcome of the study drawn the conclusion that, parents have an important role in identifying children's talent and guiding them. Positive understanding and close relationship between parents and children are recommended. Therefore, it is suggested that the methods of good parenting style and proper interaction of parents to their children be more valued. The working parents should find quality time to spend with their children to achieve better academic results through providing good mental and physical health to their children.

**Keywords:** *Parenting Style, Academic Performance, Children, Working Parents*

## INTRODUCTION

Parenting style is defined as the parents react and respond to their Child's emotions. As a parent, your parenting style is related to how you feel about emotions. The pure quality of parent and child relation are often conceptualized within the framework of parenting styles. Family is the foundation and important structure of the society that has an important role in one's life. The significance of the family as a social structure is something unambiguous. The impact of family on a child and its roles in the creativity, social, cultural, and moral aspects are very boundless and vital for the existence of a healthier society. So family helps to build a better society in many ways (Bluestone, 1999). Correct and balanced bond between parents and their children is one of the aspects prompting both their physical and mental health (Milevsky, 2007). Early studies were revealed that communication between children and parents and how parents interact with children are measured to be the most essential and vital factors among the various elements that affect children's fostering and healthy character (Baumrind, 1991), (Mamat, 2011), (Kimble, 2014) and (Alex, 2018). These studies examined the relationship between parenting styles and their relationship with the academic performance of children. A steady finding from

these researches are that authoritative parenting, defined as those who are responsive and demanding to their offspring and have fixed clear rules and expectations for their kids.

A preschool aged child's social and emotional development can be influenced in many ways. The social emotional development of a preschool aged child influences many attributes of a young child's life, and parenting plays a role in how each child attains developmentally suitable social and emotional skills (Mensah, 2013). The bond of parents with children and parenting style serves multiple purposes. Moral and psychological training, growth and development of children's talents, identification, skills, familiarizing with the rules and norms of the society from the viewpoint of parents are among these purposes. "Parsons also think through the dual basic functions for the family, that is socialization and prosperity of the child's personality." So it seems that parents' parenting styles are likely to affect children's personality traits (Eazazi, 1997).

Parenting styles can be defined as a set or a system of behaviors that describes the parent and child interactions over a wide range of situations and creates an effective interaction atmosphere (Maher, 2006). Educational achievement means the fulfillment of expected level of education, and an education organization approaches its predetermined goals (Poorkarimi, 2010). But, the question that comes to our mind is that whether the educational success relates to parents' parenting styles. And secondly, what is the parenting style that influence the students most. Therefore, this study seeks to examine the relationship between parents' parenting styles and academic performance of children in Ernakulum district. In this study, investigator intended to find out whether there is a relationship between parenting styles and students' academic achievement and which parenting style is taken by parents for treating their children.

Study conducted by Jaipaul says that, fathers' authoritative parenting style and father child academic interaction at home were positively related to children's social behaviors. Authoritarian parenting style of the mother was negatively and mother-school contact was positively associated with children's social behaviors (Jaipaul, 2006). Studies indicated that fathers' parenting carried the weight of influence over mothers' parenting for facilitating both child academic skills and social behaviors. The roles of parenting styles, parent-academic activities, and parent-school contacts in early schooling are discussed (Jaipaul, 2006). Biabangard in a study examined the relationship between parenting styles, creativity and academic achievement of the students of grade three of high school and showed that there was a significantly positive relationship between the emotional atmosphere of the family and creativity. Furthermore, there was a significantly negative relationship between the creativity and dictatorship parenting style and there was no statistically significant relationship between the emotional atmosphere of the family, declining to absolute freedom, and creativity (Biabangard, 2006).

Study executed by Mamat in 2011 pointed out that mothers and fathers authoritative style have positive effects on children behavior and school achievement. In contrast, the permissive and authoritarian styles have negative effects on children behavior and school achievement (Mamat, 2011). According to Kefayat study titled "Examination of the relationship of parenting styles and attitudes with creativity and its relationship with intelligence, educational achievement and progressivist behaviors of students of the first grade of high school in Ahvaz" and concluded that there was a negative correlation between the various parenting styles and creativity (Kefayat, 2012). Study conducted in 2013 revealed that the majority of the parents were perceived to adopt authoritative parenting styles in the upbringing of their children. It was also revealed that parenting style has influence on students' social development (Mensah, 2013). This study has tried to fill in this gap between indulgent parenting style and their impact on educational performance of learners at high school level. It would be beyond the scope of this study to examine the impact of other parenting styles such as Authoritative, Authoritarian and Neglectful on educational performance of learners (Seth, 2013 ). The dominating parenting style is authoritarian, which is connected with the family's low social status and economic level. Parenting with an authoritative style, which is different from the more severe authoritarian style, shows more successful results in terms of high academic achievement (Kashahu, 2014).

This study taken place due to the limited study on parenting style of working parents and their children's academic performance in Kerala. So this study can help the parents to adopt better parenting style to achieve good result in their academic performance. This study followed a few objectives to get appropriate answer. They are,

- To study various parenting styles and its impact in the academic performance of children of working parents.
- To study various types of parenting style with their socio demographic factors
- To find out the most applied parenting style among working parents in Angamaly Municipality
- To find out the most effective parenting style in working parents for the better academic performance of children in Angamaly Municipality.

## METHOD

This is a descriptive statistics study which is done at Angamally Municipality in Ernakulum district. Among 3256 students, 195 students were selected randomly as the sample. Self-made questionnaire was employed in the study after checking its validity, reliability and normality. To determine the face and content validities of the questionnaire, the primary questionnaire was given to two professors and experts and after getting their opinions, the necessary changes were applied on the questionnaire, thus, the items of the questionnaire was modified and confirmed considering professors' opinions. The sub variables of the study were authoritative parenting style, authoritarian parenting style, permissive parenting style, democratic parenting style and attachment parenting style. A test is reliable if it is given to the same group of people for several times in a short time, and the results are consistent. After analyzing the data from the questionnaires, their reliability coefficient (Cronbach's Alpha) was approved. Regarding the study population, stratified random sampling method and lottery technique were used. The reviews were collected from using secondary sources of data such as books, national and international journals, internet, periodicals and reports of different workshops conducted in Kerala and India.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The study conducted among "Parenting Style and Academic Performance of Children: A Study among Working Parents in Angamaly Municipality". The findings and discussion of this study are explained below.

- Working parents in Angamaly Municipality use different parenting style. Each parenting style unique and different from each other. Among the 195 respondents, 81 respondents practice authoritative parenting style, 39 respondents practice attachment parenting style, 21 are permissive style, 27 are democratic and rest are authoritarian parenting style.
- There is a relationship between the parenting style and academic performance of children of working parents. Parenting style influences the children to have better academic performance.
- The main objective of the study is to know the parenting style and academic performance of their children. Children who are guided by authoritative parenting style have acquired better academic performance than all the other parenting style. *Children of parents who follow authoritative parenting style have better academic performance than other parenting style. Those parents who practice authoritative parenting style respect the freedom of the individual and therefore they have very good academic performance.*
- Freedom with responsibility is the key factor of the authoritative parenting style, which is very important factor for the better academic performance. Respect the individuality of the children is the essential idea of the authoritative parenting style. This is one of the principle in the social work profession.
- The results of the current study concluding that parenting characteristics such as supportiveness and warmth continue to play an important role in influencing a student's academic performance.
- Parents who are very much responsive towards child's feelings and needs have better academic performance.
- Parents ability or readiness to give comfort when the child is upset is also plays a major role in the parenting style. The ability or readiness of the respondents is as follows. There are 26% of respondents

always ready to give comfort when the child is upset, 32% respondents are many times, 25% respondents are sometimes, remaining 17 % respondents are very rarely ready to give comfort when the child is upset.

- Parent's ability to welcome and consider some of the choices made by the child also a major factor in the parenting style. Those parents who respect the uniqueness of the child make a remarkable change in their academic performance because they consider the child as an equal member in the family.
- Parents who punish the child very often by taking away the privileges given to them will not make a remarkable change in the academic performance of the child.
- Parent's positive or constructive criticism for the improvement of the child has good impact in the academic performance of the child.
- The correction of the parents, due to the unwanted behavior from the child always plays a vital role in the academic performance of children in the school.
- Parents who ignores child's behavior de-motivate the child to have better academic performance.
- Parents who punishes the child for the simple mistakes is also dangerous for the better academic performance.
- Parents who give freedom to the child to make choices, encourage the child to correct mistakes also avoid unpleasant discussions from the child is very much relevant for the better academic performance.
- Warmth and support are very important from the parent for a child help to make remarkable achievement. Those parents who joke and play with the child practices this warmth and support.
- The parent encourages the child to talk about his or her troubles shows the freedom given to the child in their parenting style. Freedom with responsibility is the major factor to make a remarkable achievement in the life of the child.
- The respondent understands the feelings of the child are also very important in the parenting.
- Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the researcher recommends that parents of preschool aged children engage in authoritative parenting practices to assist in the growth and development of their child "s social emotional development. When parents engage in parenting practices that set high standards and expectations, yet listen and encourage independence, the children tend to show higher levels of academic performance and social emotional development as well.
- Hesitate to express parent's feelings and disagreements to the child are not at all help the child to improve the academic performance.
- Parents who show sympathy when child is hurt is not going to help the child, rather they should show empathy. Feel with the child is the key idea of empathy

## SUGGESTIONS

Some of the suggestions emerged out of this study are, parents need awareness of parenting style because most of the parents are unaware of the styles of parenting. This is very important from the perspective of social work because main objective of this profession is enabling the people to help themselves. This awareness helps the parent to choose better parenting style for their children. Training of different parenting style will help the parents to have better parenting style to their children. It is very important from the view of social work because uniqueness and the dignity of the individual are given very much important. Parent should be aware of the relationship between parenting style and academic performance of their children and also they should know which parenting style will help their child to have better academic performance. Longitudinal study research must be conducted about this topic. Since it is a relevant and interesting topic and a longitudinal research study is required.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Since the research sample is limited to the parents, it is likely that factors such as (socio demographic factors) age, education, social situation, culture, workplace, etc., influence the parenting style, therefore, it is suggested to study these factors in the same upcoming studies
- Conduct direct and indirect workshop of parenting styles for parents to help students' improvement and accountability and consequently career path
- Intervention study can be used to understand the different parenting style and its effect in children's academic performance
- This study can be executed in different cultural background of the Kerala context

## CONCLUSION

There is an existing relationship between education of the children and the parenting style. Parenting style influence the children is a reality. We cannot say that the particular parenting style is good and other is bad, everything depends on the circumstances and the personality of the parent and also the characteristics of the child as well. Relationship between Parenting Styles and academic achievement parents can play a direct role in fostering their children's academic achievement by becoming involved in their children's educational activities. Parents who directly participate in their young children's education by helping them with homework, reading to them, and playing educational games tend to have children who are excellent at academically relevant tasks. By changing parenting style one can improve the academic performance in the child is a fact of this study. Teachers also can help the student very well in their academics if they are aware of the parenting style.

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