

How Parenting Styles Affected Parents of Adolescent Children's Prosocial Behaviour and Empathy

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Abstract – Objectives: The objective of the study was to study if there would be a significant relationship between each parenting style, prosocial behaviour and empathy. **Method:** The sample included 120 parents with children between the age of 12 and 18. A convenience sampling design was used. The tools used were The Perth Empathy Scale, Prosocialness Scale for Adults (PSA) by Caprara and Perceived Parenting Style Scale (PPSS) by Manikandan. **Results:** our findings indicate a substantial and positive association between an authoritative parenting style and prosocial conduct as well as a significant and positive relationship between an authoritative parenting style and empathy. The association between an authoritarian parenting style and prosocial conduct and the relationship between an authoritarian parenting style and empathy were both insignificant. While there was no significant connection between passive parenting and empathy, there was a strong and favourable association between passive parenting and prosocial behaviours.

Index terms – Authoritarian parenting style, Authoritative parenting style, Empathy, Passive parenting style, Prosocial behaviour.

INTRODUCTION

The parenting styles theory of psychology describes the different the relationships between parents and their children and how those interactions affect the kids' development. Perceived parental warmth and prosocial behaviour among emerging adults has been shown to have a positive correlation (Quan, Li, Yang, Song and Wang, 2021), along with academic outcomes in U.S. Mexican Adolescents (Carlo, White, Streit, Knight and Zeiders, 2017). This theory was first proposed by psychologist Diana Baumrind in the 1960s, and it has since been expanded upon by other psychologists. According to Baumrind, there are three main parenting styles: authoritarian, permissive, and authoritative. Authoritarian style relies on high demands and expectations as well as a measure of low

warmth and responsiveness. Like authoritarian parents, authoritative parents have high expectations for their children's behaviour and performance, but they also provide a supportive and nurturing environment to help their children meet these expectations. Permissive parents refrain from establishing boundaries or applying punishments, making them more inclined to give in to their kids' demands and are often very warm and sensitive. Psychologist Daniel Batson defines prosocial behaviour as any action intended to benefit another person, regardless of the motive or outcome of that action. It has been seen that positive parenting can help us predict the prosocial behaviour through emotional intelligence among adolescents. (Batool and Lewis, 2022). A difference between consistent and inconsistent parenting style on prosocial behaviour in adolescents has also been seen (Karmakar, 2017)

Psychologist Daniel Batson defines prosocial behaviour as "any action intended to benefit another person, regardless of the motive or outcome of that action." This means that even if the individual's intention is not purely selfless, the act of helping others still qualifies as prosocial behaviour. Helping, sharing, and cooperating are examples of prosocial behaviours that benefit other people or society at large. It is a crucial component of social conduct and is regarded as a key metric of social maturation and growth. The capacity to comprehend and relate to memories and feelings of others is referred to as empathy. It is a significant facet of social conduct and is seen as a vital element of positive interpersonal interactions and communication. Empathy is a complex psychological construct that involves a variety of cognitive and affective processes. The relationship between prosocial behaviour and empathy is effected by multiple variables. From roles of parents (Mesurado, Richaud and Rodriguez, 2018), to gender differences (Graaff, Carlo, Crocetti, Koot and Branji, 2018). Prosocial behaviour has significant correlation with

both cognitive and affective empathy as well (Yin and Wang, 2022). It also has correlations between parenting practices and environmental connections (Musitu-Ferrer, León-Moreno, Callejas-Jerónimo, Esteban-Ibáñez, and Musitu-Ochoa, 2019).

METHODOLOGY

Hypothesis

1. Authoritative style parenting will have a significant relationship prosocial behaviour.
2. Authoritative style parenting will have a significant relationship with empathy.
3. Authoritarian style parenting will have a significant relationship with prosocial behaviour.
4. Authoritarian style parenting will have a significant relationship with empathy.
5. Permissive style parenting will have a significant relationship with prosocial behaviour.
6. Permissive style parenting will have a significant relationship with empathy.

Sample

The sample included 120 parents with children between the age of 12 and 18. A convenience sampling design was used. The research design was a correlation research design.

Tools

The Perth Empathy Scale: The Perth Empathy Scale is an instrument for self-report designed to assess cognitive and affective empathy, among other types of empathy. It was created in 2008 by Mark R. Dadds, David J. Hunter, and Carolyn A. Hawes and has been used to several research projects. The Perth Empathy Scale includes 28 items, each of which is scored on a Likert scale with 1 being the strongest disagreement and 5 being the strongest agreement. It offers a thorough assessment of empathy which has demonstrated strong psychometric qualities in a variety of demographics. It may be applied in clinical and academic contexts to evaluate individual empathy variations and look into the function of empathy in diverse social and psychological processes.

Prosocialness Scale for Adults (PSA) by Caprara: Carlo Caprara and his colleagues created the Prosocialness Scale for Adults (PSA), a self-report questionnaire, to measure several prosocial behavioural traits in adults. It was initially published in 2005 and has since been applied in several research

to assess prosocial behaviour individual differences. The 18 items in the PSA are assessed using a 5-point Likert scale, with 1 being the strongest disagreement and 5 being the strongest agreement. It offers a thorough assessment of prosocial conduct and has demonstrated high psychometric qualities across a variety of demographics. It may be applied in clinical and academic contexts to evaluate prosocial behaviour individual differences and explore the part prosocial behaviour plays across multiple psychological and social functions.

Perceived Parenting Style Scale by (Dr) K.Manikandan: Dr. K. Manikandan created the Perceived Parenting Style Scale (PPSS), a self-report questionnaire, to measure how people evaluate their parenting practises. The measure, which was initially published in 2011, has been used in several research to assess how teenagers and young adults view different parenting philosophies. The 20 items of the PPSS are scored on a 4-point Likert scale, with 1 being the strongest disagreement and 4 being the strongest agreement. It offers a trustworthy and accurate way to gauge how parenting styles are regarded, and it has been applied in a number of contexts to study the connection between parenting methods and different psychological outcomes including self-esteem, academic success, and mental health.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Relationship between Authoritative Parenting style and Prosocial behaviour

Variables	Sig. (2 tailed)	N	Pearson's correlation
AeS and PSA	0.00	120	0.351

Authoritative parenting style and prosocial behaviour had a significant and positive relationship ($r=0.351$) on 0.01 level significance.

Table 2: Relationship between Authoritarian Parenting style and Prosocial behaviour

Variables	Sig. (2 tailed)	N	Pearson's correlation
AnS and PSA	0.103	120	-0.155

Authoritarian parenting style and prosocial behaviour had no significant relationship ($r=-0.155$).

Table 3: Relationship between Passive Parenting style and Prosocial behaviour

Variables	Sig. (2 tailed)	N	Pearson's correlation
PS and PSA	0.004	120	-0.269

Passive parenting style and prosocial behaviour had a significant and positive relationship ($r=-0.269$) on 0.01 level significance.

Table 4: Relationship between Authoritative Parenting style and Empathy

Variables	Sig. (2 tailed)	N	Pearson's correlation
AeS and E	0.016	120	0.228

Authoritative parenting style and empathy had a significant and positive relationship ($r=0.228$) on 0.05 level significance.

Table 5: Relationship between Authoritarian Parenting style and Empathy

Variables	Sig. (2 tailed)	N	Pearson's correlation
AnS and E	0.085	120	0.164

Authoritative parenting style and empathy had no significant relationship ($r=0.164$).

Table 6: Relationship between Passive Parenting style and Empathy

Variables	Sig. (2 tailed)	N	Pearson's correlation
PS and E	0.811	120	-0.023

Passive parenting style and empathy had no significant relationship ($r=-0.023$).

It was seen in Table 1 that Authoritative parenting style and prosocial behaviour had a significant and positive relationship ($r=0.351$) on 0.01 level significance. This proves the first hypothesis, authoritative parenting style will have a significant relationship with prosocial behaviour, to be true. It was seen in Table 2 that Authoritarian parenting style and prosocial behaviour had no significant relationship ($r=-0.155$). This means the third hypothesis, authoritarian parenting style will have a significant relationship with prosocial behaviour, is proven false. In Table 3 it was seen that passive parenting style and prosocial behaviour had a significant and positive relationship ($r=-0.269$) on 0.01 level significance. This proves part of the fifth hypothesis, that passive parenting style will have a significant relationship with prosocial behaviour, to be true. As seen in Table 4, Authoritative parenting style and empathy had a significant and positive relationship ($r=0.228$) on 0.05 level significance. This proves the second hypothesis, authoritative parenting style will have a significant

relationship with empathy, to be true. As seen in Table 5, Authoritative parenting style and empathy had no significant relationship ($r=0.164$). This means the fourth hypothesis, authoritarian parenting style will have a significant relationship with empathy, is proven false. As seen in Table 6, passive parenting style and empathy had no significant relationship ($r=-0.023$). This proves part of the sixth hypothesis, that passive parenting style will have a significant relationship with empathy, is proven false.

Syahril, Yusuf, Ilfandra and Adiputra (2020) aimed to find the link between prosocial behaviours, empathy, and parenting style. The study's findings suggested a link between an authoritative parenting style and empathy, both of which helped adolescents develop prosocial behaviours. Authoritative parenting was found to have a positive correlation with adolescent prosocial behaviour, as children who receive attention, discipline, and genuine affection from their parents and family are more likely to exhibit positive social behaviour.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our findings indicate a substantial and positive association between an authoritative parenting style and prosocial conduct as well as a significant and positive relationship between an authoritative parenting style and empathy. The association between an authoritarian parenting style and prosocial conduct and the relationship between an authoritarian parenting style and empathy were both insignificant. While there was no significant connection between passive parenting and empathy, there was a strong and favourable association between passive parenting and prosocial behaviours.

LIMITATIONS

- Due to the small sample size, there is low generalizability, meaning that the results are less generalizable to the target population.
- The research sample was picked in a method other than randomly.

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