



## Effects Of Variation In Parenting On Juvenile Delinquency

### KEYWORDS

Parenting styles, Juvenile delinquency, Paternal and Maternal Care-takers.

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### ABSTRACT

*Juvenile delinquency is one of the burning issues all over the world and reform initiatives are going on in India. In this study the four parenting styles namely Authoritarian, Authoritative, Neglecting and Permissive parenting styles of the paternal and maternal care-takers of the juvenile delinquents were analysed in order to find the variation between them. Census method was used in this study as the data had been collected from all the inmates of the eight observation homes of Tamilnadu, India. The binary logistic regression predicted that paternal parenting style predicted the prevalence of Fraud (property offences). On the other hand maternal parenting styles predicted the prevalence of Force (personal offences). The study revealed that the difference in the type of offence was due to the effect of the type of parenting of the paternal or maternal care-takers. Therefore appropriate parenting by both the care takers is important to bring about control over juvenile delinquency.*

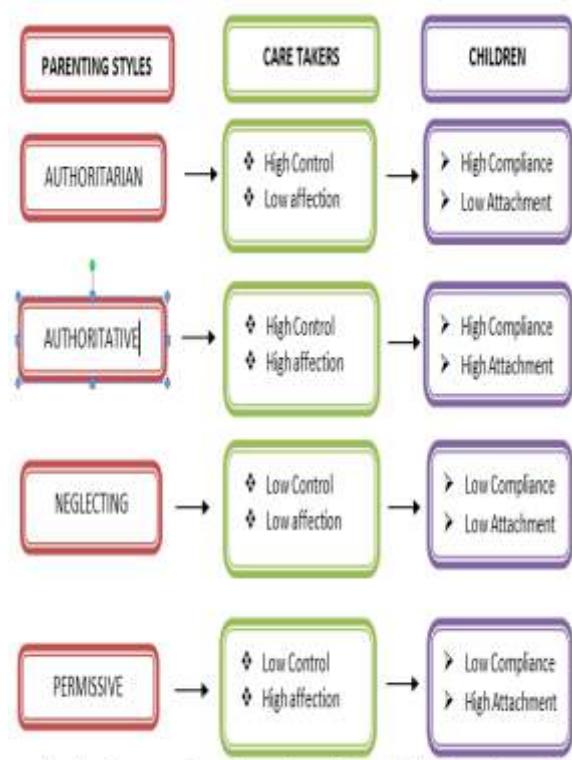
### INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency is not only a national issue but also a global phenomenon. The term juvenile delinquency was officially developed in the United States in 1899, when the first code of juvenile delinquency was enacted in Chicago, Illinois (Shoemaker: 2005). Juvenile delinquency refers to a large variety of disapproved behaviour of teenagers and adolescents which the society does not approve of and for which some kind of punishment or corrective measure is justified in the public interest (Paranjape: 1998). Both Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL) crimes of the juvenile constitute 3542 cases in Tamilnadu which is 8.89% of the total national juvenile crime (39822 cases) for the year 2012 (Crime in India, 2012). The highest number of juveniles under Special and Local Laws (SLL) were apprehended in Tamil Nadu (1922, 44.1%) for the year 2012 (Crime in India, 2012). The situation of Tamilnadu points out to the vulnerable conditions of children in conflict with law that need to be addressed urgently.

### Parenting Styles

Parenting style has been defined as 'the parents perceivable attitudes towards the child' (Darling & Steinberg: 1993). Through these attitudes, an emotional environment is created in which the parents' expectations and behaviors to the child are expressed and the child in turn, interprets these behaviors and expectations. This interpretation creates the emotional environment through which all familial interaction occurs (Vaughn et al: 1998). Parenting style, therefore, becomes the prime factor for the socialisation which contributes to the socially acceptable or non-acceptable behaviour. (Darling and Steinberg: 1993).

A more widely accepted refinement was proposed by Maccoby and Martin (1983), who described parents in terms of their placement on two dimensions they termed responsiveness and demandingness. Baumrind (1991, 2005) recognized this fact in her work with young children in which she characterized parents as falling into four groups: (1) authoritative (high in responsiveness and demandingness); (2) authoritarian (high in demandingness but low in responsiveness); (3) permissive (low in demandingness but high in responsiveness) and (4) neglecting/rejecting (low in responsiveness and demandingness).



Based on these four types of parenting styles Buri (1991) developed Parental Authority Questionnaire (PAQ) which has got 20 statements, five statements for each of the parenting styles namely authoritarian, authoritative, neglecting and permissive. This tool was administered in this study to find the perceived parenting styles of the juvenile delinquents in Tamilnadu and found that the Cronbach's Alpha value was 0.563 (N=234) for paternal care givers and 0.558 (N=234) for maternal care givers, which indicates only a modest level of internal consistency of the scale.

### Methods and Materials

The Research study was conducted in the state of Tamilnadu which has eight observation homes having the juveniles from the neighboring districts even though each district has got a separate juvenile justice board. At the time of the study Chennai home had 56 inmates from Kanchipuram(3), Vellore(4), Thiruvelllore(4) and Chennai(45). Madurai home had 38 inmates from Dindugal(10), Theni(9), Sivagangai(4), Virudunagar(4), Ramanathapuram(3) and Madurai(8). Coimbatore home had 25 inmates from Erode(9), Tirupur(4), Nilgiri(5) and Coimbatore(7). Tiruchy home had 24 inmates from Ariyalur(4), Perambalur(4), Karur(4), Pudukkottai(4) and Tiruchy(8). Salem home had 27 inmates from Nammakkal(6), Dharmapuri(5), Krishnagiri(8) and Salem(8). Thirunelveli home had 29 inmates from Kanyakumari(5), Thuthukudi(11) and Thirunelveli(13). Cuddalore home had 22 inmates from Thiruvenamalai(4), Vilupuram(14) and Cuddalore(4). Thanjavur home had 13 inmates from Nagapattinam(4), Thiruvarur(3) and Thanjavur(6). The Researcher has chosen the Descriptive and Diagnostic research Design for this study.

### Proposed Hypothesis for the study

- (H0): The authoritarian parenting style of the paternal and maternal care-takers is not the significant predictor of the type of offence.
- (H0): The authoritative parenting style of the paternal and maternal care-takers is not the significant predictor of the type of offence.
- (H0): The neglecting parenting style of the paternal and maternal care-takers is not the significant predictor of the type of offence.
- (H0): The permissive parenting style of the paternal and maternal care-takers is not the significant predictor of the type of offence.

### Results and Discussion:

Gottfredson and Hirschi (1990) stated that in its most elemental form among the delinquents, crime entails acts of "Personal offenses (Force)" and "Property offenses (Fraud)". In this study also Petty Fraud refers to property offenses like forgery, stolen property, vandalism, robbery and burglary worth less than rupees 5000. Major Fraud refers to property offenses worth more than 5000 as well as weapons possession, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Table 1: Types of Offences

Type of Offence	Frequency	Percent
Petty Fraud	78	33.3
Major Fraud	85	36.3
Petty Force	41	17.5
Major Force	30	12.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Petty Force refers to personal offenses include simple assaults, Hurt and disorderly conduct. Major Force refers to aggravated assaults like murder, rape and terrorism. The above table reveals that more than two third (69.6%) of the respondents have committed property offenses and less than one third (30.3%) of respondents have done personal offenses.

Table 2: Paternal and Maternal Care-takers

Care Giver	Maternal Care	Paternal Care
Biological Mother/father	190 (81.2)	187 (79.9)
Step Mother/Father	13 (5.6)	7 (3.0)
Grand Mother/Father	13 (5.6)	4 (1.7)
Sister/Brother	7 (3.0)	17 (7.3)
Aunt/Uncle	9 (3.8)	17 (7.3)
Sister in Law/Brother in law	2 (.9)	2 (.9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>234 (100.0)</b>	<b>234 (100.0)</b>

The above table-2 describes the paternal and maternal care provided to the children. Here, majorities (81.2%) of the biological mothers are the maternal care-takers and majority (79.9%) of the paternal care-takers are also the biological father.

### Logistic Regression analysis:

The offences committed are characterized by a binary variable, 0 for Fraud and 1 for Force. Using logistic regression, we can find that all the parenting variables predict the prevalence of either Fraud or Force and will also show the degree to which a new person has the likely to commit Force or Fraud.

Model 1: Force/Fraud is the dependent variable and the three factors of paternal parenting style (Paternal-1, Paternal-2 and Paternal-3) are the independent variables.

They are entered in the equation as follows.

$$\ln \frac{p}{1-p} = b_0 + b_1 X_1 + b_2 X_2 + \dots + b_k X_k + e$$

Outcome (dependent variable): Force or Fraud (coded 1 for Force and 0 for Fraud).

**Paternal-1:** (X1) is the first component in the factor analysis of the paternal parenting style. The first factor (Paternal 1) has the dominance of neglecting style ( $M = 3.26$ ,  $SD = 1.02$ ) and the deficiency of authoritative style ( $M = 1.68$ ,  $SD = 0.99$ ).

**Paternal-2:** (X2) is the second component in the factor analysis of the paternal parenting style. The second factor (Paternal 2) represents Paternal Authoritarian (Pataun) Style ( $M = 2.16$ ,  $SD = 0.77$ ).

**Paternal-3:** (X3) is the third component in the factor analysis of the paternal parenting style. The third factor (Paternal 3) represents Paternal Permissive (Patperm) Style ( $M = 1.96$ ,  $SD = 0.68$ ).

Table 3: Logistic regression for Paternal Care

Variable	Coefficient(B)	Standard Error	Wald	if	Sig.	Exp(B)
Constant	-2.003	0.322	38.636	1	0.000	0.135
Paternal-1	-1.34	0.213	39.417	1	0.000	0.262
Paternal-2	-2.844	0.392	52.584	1	0.000	0.058
Paternal-3	-0.343	0.329	1.086	1	0.297	0.710

(H0): The coefficient of paternal 1 has negative value (-1.34) implying that when the score of Paternal neglecting style increases by one unit, Force is likely to decreases by 1.34 times other things remaining constant (for Wald) statistically significant at  $p < 0.01$ . The Paternal neglecting styles predict the reduction of Force and instead the prevalence of Fraud.

Therefore the null hypothesis, that the Paternal Neglecting Parenting Style is not the significant predictor of the type of offence, is rejected.

(H0): The coefficient of paternal 2 has negative value (-2.844) implying that when the score of Paternal authoritarian style increases by one unit, Force is likely to decrease by 2.844 times other things remaining constant (for Wald) statistically significant at  $p<0.01$ . The Paternal authoritarian styles predict the reduction of Force and instead the prevalence of Fraud. Therefore the null hypothesis, that the Paternal Authoritarian parenting style is not the significant predictor of the type of offence, is rejected.

(H0): The result shows that Paternal-3 (factor having Paternal permissive (Patperm) style) was found to be non-significant ( $p>0.05$ ). The low mean value of permissive style has not predicted the type of offence among the respondents. Therefore the null hypothesis, that the Paternal Permissive Parenting Style is not the significant predictor of the type of offence, is not rejected.

**Model 2:** Force/Fraud is the dependent variable and all the three factors of maternal parenting (Maternal-1, Maternal-2 and Maternal-3) are the independent variables. They are entered in the equation as follows.

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**Outcome** (dependent variable): Force or Fraud (coded 1 for Force and 0 for Fraud).

**Maternal-1:** (X1) is the first component in the factor analysis of maternal parenting style. The first factor (Maternal-1) has the dominance of neglecting style ( $M = 3.08$ ,  $SD = 0.95$ ) and the deficiency of authoritative style ( $M = 1.73$ ,  $SD = 0.99$ ).

**Maternal-2:** (X2) is the Second component in the factor analysis of maternal parenting style. The second factor (Maternal-2) represents Maternal Authoritarian (Mataun) Style ( $M = 2.85$ ,  $SD = 0.81$ ).

**Maternal-3:** (X3) is the Third component in the factor analysis of maternal parenting style. The third factor (Maternal-3) represents Maternal Permissive (Matperm) Style ( $M = 3.26$ ,  $SD = 0.79$ ).

**Table 4: Logistic regression for Maternal Care**

Variable	Coefficient(B)	Standard Error	Wald	if	Sig.	Exp(B)
Constant	-1.004	0.166	36.681	1	0.00	0.366
Maternal-1	-0.014	0.144	0.009	1	0.924	0.986
Maternal-2	0.521	0.154	11.458	1	0.001	1.684
Maternal-3	-0.945	0.172	30.118	1	0.000	0.389

(H0): The result shows that Maternal-1 (factor having Maternal

Neglecting (Matnegt) Style) was found to be non-significant ( $p>0.05$ ). The Neglecting parenting style has not predicted the type of offence among the respondents. Therefore the null hypothesis, that the Maternal Neglecting Style is not the significant predictor of the type of offence, is not rejected.

(H0): The coefficient of maternal 2 has positive value (0.521) implying that when the score of Maternal authoritarian style increases by one unit, Force is likely to increase by 0.521 times other things remaining constant (for Wald) statistically significant at  $p<0.01$ . The maternal authoritarian styles predict the prevalence of Force. Therefore the null hypothesis, that the Maternal authoritarian parenting style is not the significant predictor of the type of offence, is rejected.

(H0): The coefficient of maternal 3 has negative value (-0.945) implying that when the score of Maternal permissive style increases by one unit, Force is likely to decreases by 0.945 times other things remaining constant (for Wald) statistically significant at  $p<0.01$ . The maternal permissive styles predict the reduction of Force and instead the prevalence of Fraud. Therefore the null hypothesis, that the Maternal permissive parenting style is not the significant predictor of the type of offence, is rejected.

#### Findings

1. The paternal authoritarian style predicted the prevalence of Fraud. Instead the maternal authoritarian style predicted the prevalence of Force.
2. In both the paternal and maternal parenting there was high dominance of neglecting style and the deficiency of authoritative style. In both the parenting the deficiency of authoritative style indirectly predicted the prevalence of both Force and Fraud.
3. The paternal neglecting style predicted the prevalence of Fraud. Instead the maternal neglecting style had not directly predicted the type of offence.
4. The paternal permissive style had not directly predicted the type of offence. Instead the maternal permissive style predicted the prevalence of Fraud.

Therefore Fraud requires modification of the parenting styles among the Paternal care givers and Force requires modification of the parenting styles among the Maternal care givers.

#### Conclusion

The end purpose of the juvenile justice system is not to punish but to rehabilitate the juvenile. The rehabilitation of the juvenile means the delinquent's behaviours are to be controlled and his general life adjustments have to be modified. The social workers have a major role to play in the rehabilitation of the juvenile delinquents and helping him to achieve socially acceptable mode of participation by improving the parenting style of care takers. Therefore the rehabilitation of the juvenile delinquents must take in to account the total person in the total environment and must concentrate on the modification of the parenting styles for better molding and influencing their behavior.

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