



## DETERMINANTS OF PARENTING STYLES ADOPTED BY FATHERS

## Home Science

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## ABSTRACT

The parent- child relationship has a major influence on most aspects of child development. The present study is conducted to know the Determinants of Parenting Styles adopted by fathers according to Child variables. Sample consists of 220 fathers of pre-school age children selected from Thirupati and Hyderabad. Multi stage systematic random sampling technique was used to select sample. Sample fathers administered with *Parental Attitude towards their Own Upbringing Scale* and *Parenting Styles Questionnaire*. The results of linear regression analysis revealed that the major determinants of child variables for adoption of parenting styles adopted by father, Age and birth order of the child showed significant contribution towards adoption of authoritarian parenting style. Only birth order showed significant contribution towards authoritative parenting style. Age of the child ,birth order of the child and type of school child studied were found to be contributing factors for permissive parenting styles adopted by fathers. Age of the father, Birth order of the father and education of the father were contributing significantly towards authoritarian and permissive parenting styles adopted by fathers.

## KEYWORDS

Determinants of Parenting style, Parenting styles determinants

## INTRODUCTION:

Parents play an important role in disciplining the child. There are different determinants, which can affect the parenting style adopted by parents. The child-parent relationship has a major influence on most aspects of child development. Belsky (1984), proposed an ecological process model of the multiple psycho-social determinants of parenting that influence child development. This theoretical model presumes that child development is predicted by parenting that is directly determined by three domains of influence that is child characteristics, parent's characteristics and contextual factors.

## Child Characteristics:

The characteristics of children such as age, gender, birth order can act as support or stress factors and the balance of these factors determine the quality of parenting (Wood ward and Fergusson, 2002). Parental Characteristics: Despite the strong influence of their own upbringing on parenting, parental disciplinary practices also depend on parental characteristics such as age, gender, education qualification, occupation etc.,

## OBJECTIVES

1. To know the different parenting styles adopted by fathers of pre-school children
2. To know the determinants of parenting styles adopted by fathers of sample children according to child variables.
3. To know the determinants of parenting styles adopted by fathers of sample children according to father variables.

## METHODOLOGY

The following tool specially developed for the research purpose were used for the study

**Tools:** 1 Parenting Styles Questionnaire (PSQ)

**Parenting Styles Questionnaire (PSQ)** was specially developed for present research purpose. It has 54 items and the distribution of items in different heads with five points rating scale. The questionnaire has items distributed under three areas viz Authoritarian, Authoritative and Permissive parenting style with 18 items each area and together there were 54 items. Test reliability was established and was found to 0.68 which was significant at 0.01 levels. The validity was also established for the tool.

**Sample:** The sample of the study consist of 220 fathers from Tirupati and Hyderabad of United Andhra Pradesh.

## Data Collection

Multistage Stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample. In first stage investigator randomly selected the parents who have pre-school age children studying in Government and private schools at Tirupati and Hyderabad. The investigator personally visited homes and established good rapport with the parents. Fathers were interviewed in their homes individually and separately about Parenting Styles adopted by them using PSQ.

The data obtained was scored and suitable statistical analysis (Multiple linear regressions) was performed to know the determinants of parenting styles.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

## Parenting Styles Adopted by Fathers

The data collected from the Parenting Styles Questionnaire was scored and based on the scores the sample parents were classified into three groups viz., authoritarian, authoritative and permissive. The mean scores obtained for three types of parenting styles adopted by parents viz., authoritarian, authoritative and permissive were 46.409 (SD= 17.785), 56.854 (SD= 12.639), 34.968 (SD= 8.301) respectively for fathers. Based on the mean 1 SD again sample parents under each category of parenting styles were divided into three groups i.e., less authoritarian, moderate authoritarian and more authoritarian. Similarly parents were classified under democratic/authoritative and permissive styles.

Table 1 shows the data about three parenting styles i.e., authoritarian, democratic/ authoritative and permissive parenting styles adopted by fathers.

**Table 1: Distribution of the Sample fathers according to Different Parenting Styles**

S.no	Type of Parenting Styles adopted by fathers		
	Authoritarian Style	Number	Per cent
1	Less authoritarian	99	45.0
2	Moderate authoritarian	55	25.0
3	More authoritarian	66	30.0
	Total	220	100.0
Authoritative Style		Number	Per cent
1	Less authoritative	43	19.5
2	Moderate authoritative	103	46.8
3	More authoritative	74	33.6
	Total	220	100.0
Permissive Style		Number	Per cent
1	Less Permissive	114	51.8
2	Moderate Permissive	91	41.4
3	More Permissive	15	6.8
	Total	220	100.0

From table 1 it is evident that parents displayed features of three types of parenting. When parenting styles implemented by fathers were observed nearly half of the parents (45 per cent of fathers were less authoritarian. Next to it, 30 percent of the fathers were exercising more authoritarian followed by 25 per cent of fathers were implementing moderately authoritarian.

Authoritative parenting style is a more flexible style of parenting and majority of sample fathers (46.8 per cent were found to be moderately authoritative. One third of the fathers (33.6 per cent) were more authoritative and 19.5 per cent of fathers were less authoritative.

Permissive style of child rearing is nurturant and accepting, but it avoids making demands or imposing controls of any kind. From table 1 it is known that more than half of the fathers 51.8 per cent fathers were found to be less permissive. Whereas 41.4 per cent of fathers and moderately permissive. Very few 6.8 per cent fathers were less permissive. Joseph and John (2008) reported that children of permissive parents tend to have good social skills but are more prone to problem behavior.

**Determinants of Parenting Styles adopted by fathers**

This section deals with determinants of parenting styles adopted by fathers and demographic variables. Regression analysis was carried out to arrive at the crucial variables that were the determinants of parenting Styles adopted by fathers with regard to child variables. Child variables of the study includes age, gender, birth order of the child, type of school child has attended.

**Table 2: Determinants of Parenting Styles adopted by father according to child Variables**

S. No.	Variables	Regression Co-efficient B	Standard error of B	't' Value	Significant value
<b>Authoritarian Father</b>					
1	Gender of the Child	-.046	2.342	-.675	0.500
2	Age of the child	.222	2.477	3.073	0.002**
3	Birth order of the child	.168	1.819	2.446	0.015*
4	Type of school	.110	2.437	1.553	0.122
<b>Multiple R=.395<sup>a</sup>; R2 =.156; F Value =3.490; Sig Value= .000<sup>b</sup></b>					
<b>Authoritative Father</b>					
1	Gender of the Child	.084	1.870	1.178	0.240
2	Age of the child	-.082	1.979	-1.076	0.283
3	Birth order of the child	-.189	1.453	-2.625	0.009*
4	Type of school	.030	1.947	.402	0.688
<b>Multiple R=.265<sup>a</sup>; R2 =.070; F Value =1.425; Sig Value= .163<sup>b</sup></b>					
<b>Permissive Father</b>					
1	Gender of the Child	-.001	1.267	-.013	0.990
2	Age of the child	-.248	1.341	-3.406	0.001**
3	Birth order of the child	.243	.984	3.516	0.001**
4	Type of school	-.138	1.319	-1.926	0.055*
<b>Multiple R=.378<sup>a</sup>; R2 =.143; f Value =3.159; Sig Value= .001<sup>b</sup></b>					

\*\*P<.01, \*P<.05

a= dependent variable

b= predictor

Same notions follow for following tables

It is observed from table 2 that the f value for authoritarian fathers was 3.159 which was significant at 0.001 level and model is adequate. Among the independent variables of the child viz., gender, age, birth order of the child and type of school child has attended, age and birth order of the child (t= 2.446 P<0.0150) showed significant contribution (t=3.073 P<0.002) towards authoritarian parenting style adopted by father. With regard to authoritative parenting style adopted by father the f value was not significant. It is shown that only birth order showed significant contribution (t= -2.625 P<0.009). When permissive parenting style of the father was observed, the f value is significant at 0.001 level, hence this model is adequate. Age, birth order and type of school have shown significant contribution. The t values were significant at 0.001 level. Thus age, birth order and type of school child attended were seemed to be highly contributing factors for permissive parenting styles adopted by fathers.

**Table 3: Determinants of Parenting Styles Adopted by Father according to Father Variables**

Sl. No.	Variables	Regression Co-efficient B	Standard error of B	't' Value	Significant value
<b>Authoritarian father</b>					
2					

1	Age of the father	-0.015	1.511	-0.194	0.846
2	Birth order of father	-0.213	1.641	-3.189	0.002**
3	Education of father	-0.192	1.362	-2.763	0.006**
4	Occupation of the father	-0.079	1.493	-1.001	0.318
5	Attitude of the father	0.067	1.562	0.952	0.342

**Multiple R=.395<sup>a</sup>; R2 =.156; f Value =3.490; Sig Value=.000<sup>b</sup>**

**Authoritative father**

1	Age of the father	0.096	1.207	1.220	0.224
2	Birth order of father	0.089	1.311	1.274	0.204
3	Education of father	0.005	1.088	0.066	0.947
4	Occupation of the father	0.085	1.193	1.016	0.311
5	Attitude of the father	0.038	1.248	-.519	0.605

**Multiple R=.265<sup>a</sup>; R2 =.070; f Value =1.425; Sig Value=.163<sup>b</sup>**

**Permissive Father**

1	Age of the father	-0.227	0.818	-3.008	0.003**
2	Birth order of father	-0.082	0.888	-1.213	0.227
3	Education of father	0.155	0.737	2.219	0.028*
4	Occupation of the father	-0.122	0.808	-1.524	0.129
5	Attitude of the father	-0.083	0.846	-1.171	0.243

**Multiple R=0.378<sup>a</sup>; R2 =0.143; f Value =3.159; Significant Value= 0.001<sup>b</sup>**

\*\*P<0.01, \*P<0.05

It is observed from table 3 that for authoritarian fathers the f Value =3.159 which was significant at 0.001 level and the model is adequate. The five parent variables entered in the analysis were age, birth order, education, occupation and attitudes of father towards their own upbringing. Among these five variables birth order of the father showed significant contribution (-3.189 P< 0.002). As age of the fathers increased fathers seemed to be less authoritarian. Education of the father also was found to be contributing significantly towards authoritarian parenting style adopted by father (t= -2.763 P<0.006).

With regard to authoritative parenting style the f value was not significant, hence the model was not significant.

Two of the variables of the fathers' were found to be contributing factors for permissive parenting style adopted by fathers. The f value was 3.159 significant at 0.001 level and model was adequate. It was found that age of the father (t= -3.008) was significant contributing factor at 0.003 level and education of the father (t value = 2.219) was significant at 0.028 level.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

- The results of multiple linear regression analysis revealed major determinants of parenting styles adopted by fathers.
- The following are the major determinants of child variables for adoption of parenting styles by father
  - Age and birth order of the child showed significant contribution towards adoption of authoritarian and permissive parenting styles.
  - Only birth order showed significant contribution towards authoritative parenting style.
- The following are major determinants of father variables for choosing different parenting styles by father.
  - Birth order of the father (-3.189 P< 0.002) and education of the father (t= -2.763 P< 0.006) were contributing significantly towards authoritarian parenting style adopted by father.
  - Father variables like age, birth order, education and attitudes were not contributing towards authoritative parenting style adopted by father.

- Age of the father ( $t = -3.008$   $P < 0.003$ ) and education of the father showed significant contribution towards exercising of permissive parenting style.

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