



Parenting style of college teachers : a study in Guwahati city, India.

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Abstract

The present study was undertaken to find out different types of parenting style available in the study area among the college teachers and more focus was given on authoritarian parenting style. This was conducted in Guwahati city. A total of 80 college teachers as respondents (40 males and 40 females), from different institutions were taken for the study for the first phase. In the second phase the authoritarian teacher parents were taken into consideration. In the case study part very few respondents had been chosen. It was found from the study that the teachers as parents are adopting various parenting styles for moulding the behaviour of the children. In authoritarian parenting style the percentage of male and female authoritarian teacher parents was different and the causes for adoption of such parenting style were also different.

Keywords: Authoritarian, parenting style, male, female, teacher parent.

1. Introduction

The role of all parents is to influence, teach and discipline their children. As parents, people use different parenting style knowingly or unknowingly. The bond that established between child and parents are based on what parenting styles is used in an effort to develop and guide the child. Parenting style is a *psychological construct representing standard strategies that parents use in their child rearing Process*. There are different theories and opinions on the best ways to rear children, as well as different levels of time and effort that parents are willing to invest.

Developmental psychologists have long been interested in how parents impact child development. German researchers found that kids with authoritarian parents were more likely to suffer from trait anxiety. They were also more likely to experience depersonalization –the feeling of watching one's act without being in control of ones action (Wolfradt et al, 2003). Research in China suggests that kids with harsh parents have more trouble regulating their emotions (Chang 2006). Shah (1993) found that early independence training and encouragement leads to the

development of high levels of need achievement in children.

One of the famous theory of parenting style was developed by Diana Baumrind (1966). She proposed that parents fall into one of the following three categories :

- Authoritarian
- Authoritative and
- Indulgent

In **Authoritarian** parenting style, *parents* use rules, regulations, strict discipline leaving no room for children's choice and response.

Authoritative parenting style refers to availability of predefined rules, set of disciplinary standards set by the parents, but the child's views are also given due place.

In **Indulgent** style, the parents give undue indulgence to the child and have less control over them. Some Teachers are also Parents. They also try to mould their children in right direction. For that they may also use different styles of parenting. Society to great extent look after them as role model everywhere. Many studies have been done on teaching style of teachers, but not a

single study was found solely concentrated on parenting style of teachers. This situation impels the researcher to encounter this area. However only the parenting styles of college teachers are taken for the study.

2. Rationale for the present study

- i. There is an increase in the number of violence , rate of adolescent and youth suicide. Some of them might belong to teachers family.
- ii. Non availability of research on this topic.
- iii. As authoritarian parenting could not be said as a favoured choice of the Psychologist due to its adverse effect, it is necessary to study the number of teacher parents adopting that style, so as to intervene such behaviour.
- iv. Guwahati can be said as mini Assam as people from different part of the state are living here for different purposes. Teachers working here are also from different parts of the state. Therefore this study would be representative one.

3. Objectives

- i. To have a glance at different types (Authoritarian, Authoritative, Indulgent) of parenting styles among the college teachers of Guwahati city.
- ii. To see the gender difference in adopting authoritarian parenting style among college teachers in the study area.
- iii. To find out the causes of adaptation of authoritarian parenting style by some of the respondents.

4. Assumption

- i. Male teachers are more in favour of authoritarian parenting style in dealing the child than the Female teachers of Guwahati city.

5. Method and procedure

5.1 Sampling techniques

In working out of this paper Random Sampling

technique had been used as per the demand of the nature of the study. For the qualitative part purposive sampling technique was used.

5.2 Sample

The study had been undertaken in three phases. In the first phase the sample of the present study consisted of 80 teacher parents of college level; of which 40 were male and 40 female. Second phase considered the number of respective male and female respondents in authoritarian parenting style and in the third phase purposively only two respondents , one male and one female teacher parent were chosen. The population consisted of all the teacher parents of college level of Guwahati city.

5.3 Tool

A self structured Questionnaire on parenting style on Maccoby and Martin(1983)s model was used to collect the data. The tool were divided into four parts such as–

- Warmth and Nurturance
- Disciplinary strategies
- Communication Style
- Expectations of Maturity and control

5.4 Techniques of research

- Quantitative technique– Survey
- Qualitative technique– case study

5.5 Data analysis

The data collected from the parents were analyzed quantitatively, and also qualitatively.

6. Results and discussion

After the collection of the data, it was tabulated in a systematic manner for analysis. The following table deals with different types of parenting styles and also the male female difference in adopting authoritarian parenting style.

Table 1 : Different parenting styles adopted by the respondents

Types of parenting	No of parents adopting different style	Percentage
Authoritarian	24	30%
Authoritative	46	57.5%
Indulgent	10	12.5%
	Total = 80	100

From table 1 it is seen that teacher parents are using different parenting style in rearing the child. In the second category i.e. in the authoritative parenting style the concentration of respondent is more. It is a very good sign that more than half of the respondents are adopting this style. It is a preferable category, as it yields good result. Due to the background and

understanding most of the teachers may use this style. However the Authoritarian parenting style is the second choice and it is an alarming sign as this parenting style may invite danger on the part of parents and also to the children. College teachers as Indulgent parents are in the third place.

From the above study it is evident that

Table 2 : Gender difference in authoritarian parenting style

Gender	No of respondent	Percentage
Male teachers	15	62.5%
Female teachers	09	37.5%
	Total = 24	Total = 100

authoritarian parenting style is liked more by the male teachers i.e. the fathers than their female counterpart. The assumption set for the study proves to be true. Due to their motherly love and affection mothers may indulge their children. However the study was done on a small sample thus may not represent adequately. Therefore it was felt important to have case study on some selected cases.

6.1 Case study

Case 1

Minakshi (name changed) is a successful woman in a city based college and from upper middle socio economic background and also a mother of two. It was found that she is adopting authoritarian technique in dealing her two children. As a child she enjoyed freedom in her parents place. She was the youngest among the two sisters. The elder one got more freedom in comparison to her. One day her mother found that her elder daughter loved a boy and she asked her in a very friendly manner and try to make her understand the inconveniences of that relationship; and the reason why it wouldn't be good for her to marry that boy. The other day the elder sister of Minakshi fled away with that boy and marry him. After that day she had to lead a miserable life. She could not complete her study. The husband of that poor girl bitten up her brutally without any valid reason. Then onwards the respondent become very reserved and concentrated only on her study. She married to a good family and also to a very nice person. She follows some predetermined rules in dealing with her children. The children are also doing very well in their study and in other activities. As a

result her behaviour is reinforced. Eventually the belief that strict discipline is required for smooth maintenance of the family and also to lead the life of the children towards a better future delve deep in her mind.

Case 2

Rahul (not the actual name) is from a well to do family. He is the eldest of three children. He did well in his study and joined an institution of higher learning after completion of his study. His mother gave much indulgence to the younger brother and also to the sister. Gradually he developed sibling rivalry towards his sister and brother and always tried to do better than his siblings in every endeavour. Years passed by. All the family members were astonished to know that his younger brother belonged to an extremist group. After some years his extremist brother surrendered and led a luxurious life. After some days his sister also fled away and married a surrendered militant. However within one year after surrender his brother were shot dead by unidentified men. Both the incidents were shocking to him; also his father had a heart attack. The respondent related this with that two shocking incident. He got married and had one child. He wanted to protect his child from all miseries of life. He also believed that the children do not have good judgment. So the parents should not give indulgence to their viewpoints and choices.

7. Conclusion

From the results of the study it could be concluded that adaptation of a particular style of

parenting may be due to different causes. However college teachers as parents should adopt authoritative style of parenting or blending of different style to make the life of the children beautiful and dignified.

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