

A Study on Influence of Child Temperament and Behavioural Problems on Parenting Styles

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Abstract: A study on influence of child temperament and behavioural problems on parenting style was carried out in Dharwad, Hubli and Kalaghatagi Talukas, Karnataka state. The sample for the study comprised of 302 families (302 mothers and 224 fathers) having children less than six years were selected through snow ball sampling technique. Child temperament scale developed by AICRP-CD 2001 was used to measure the temperament of the child. Child behaviour checklist developed by AICRP-CD 2001 was used to measure the severity of the behavioural problems among children. Results revealed that higher percent of the children were found to have highly positive temperament. Chi square analysis showed significant association among 2-4 year 4-6 year in case of mothers style of parenting and 2-4 year in case of father style of parenting revealing that, children with high percentage of authoritative parents having children with highly positive temperament. A significant association was evident between child temperament and parenting style with respect to gender (female) and ordinal position (first born children) with high percentage of authoritative fathers and mothers having children with highly positive temperament. Higher per cent of children were found to have low behavioural problems. Behavioural problems among children were significantly associated with gender (female) with higher percentage of authoritative mothers having children with low behavioural problems. Behavioural problems among children was significantly associated with ordinal position (first born) with higher percentage of authoritative fathers having children with low behavioural problems.

Keywords: Child temperament, Behavioural problems, Parenting style, authoritative parenting style and authoritarian parenting style

1. Introduction

Parenting is an activity that normally involves the children, parents and other family members in lifelong interaction. Home influence probably outweighs the effects of all other environmental impacts combined in determining the fundamental organization of children's behavior. According to psychoanalytic theory, social values and controls are largely interiorized made an integral part of the child's superego on the basis of early parent child interactions. The foundations of children's social attitude and skills are obviously laid in the home. Patterns of dependence-independence, ascendance-submission, cooperation-competition, and conservatism-liberalism have their genesis in early parent-child interactions within the home. Warm or affectionate tendencies which are so important to psychological adjustment in adult life are dependent on the nature of parent-child relationships.

Parenting is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional social, financial, and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Parenting refers to the aspects of raising a child aside from the biological relationship. Influential factors on child rearing practices such as socioeconomic status, education and individual experience vary from family to family. Parenting practices reflect the cultural understanding of children. Parenting has three essential components. Firstly, care, protects children from harm. Care also encompasses promoting emotional as well as physical health. Secondly, control, involves setting and enforcing boundaries to ensure children's and others' safety, in ever widening areas of activity. Thirdly, development involves optimizing

children's potential and maximizing the opportunities for using it.

Children go through different stages in life, therefore parents create their own parenting styles from a combination of factors that evolve over time as children begin to develop their own personalities. During the stage of infancy, parents try to adjust to a new lifestyle in terms of adapting and bonding with their new infants.

Objective of the study

Effect of temperament and behaviour of children on parenting practices among rural families with children from birth to six years.

2. Methodology

The sample for the study comprised of 302 rural families (302 mothers and 224 fathers) having children less than six years were selected through snow ball sampling technique and with the help of Anganwadi teachers. These families were selected from three talukas of Dharwad district namely Dharwad taluka, Huballi taluka and Kalaghatagi taluka comprising of nine villages (seven villages from Dharwad taluka, one village each from Huballi and Kalaghatagi taluka). The villages namely, Baada, Kotur, Narendra, Mummigatti, Salakinakoppa, Devarhuballi and Hebballi from Dharwad taluka, Sulla village from Huballi taluka and GalagiHulakoppa from Kalaghatagi taluka and from each village 22 to 45 families were selected for the study. Child temperament scale developed by AICRP-CD 2001 was used to measure the temperament of the child.

Child behaviour checklist developed by AICRP-CD 2001 was used to measure the severity of the behavioural problems among children.

3. Results and discussion

A close perusal of table 1 shows the distribution of children by child temperament. In case of mothers, it is clear that, 61.60 per cent of the children were found to have highly positive temperament followed by those children having average temperament (38.40%). With regards to father, majority of the children (83.90%) were found to have highly positive temperament followed by those having average temperament (16.10%). Findings indicated that both mothers and fathers parenting style resulted in positive and average temperament among their children. These are in line with study conducted by Slagt et. al., (2016) in which results showed that children with positive parenting supported the differential susceptibility model in which children tend to had easy temperament whereas children of negative parenting to had children with more difficult temperament and were more vulnerable to negative parenting.

Table 1: Percentage distribution of parents by child temperament

Child temperament	Mother		Father	
	n	%	n	%
Less positive (Difficult) (38-66)	-	-	-	-
Average (slow to warm-up) (67-94)	116	38.40	36	16.10
Highly positive (Easy) (95-114)	186	61.60	188	83.90
Total	302	100.0	224	100.0

The table 2 shows the association between child temperament and parenting styles among children by age. Majority of the children irrespective of their age and parenting style higher per cent of the mothers (50.80% and

58.10% respectively for birth – 2 years, 71.20% and 45.00% among 2-4 years and 85.50% and 77.80% among 4-6 years) were found to have children with highly positive temperament followed by average temperament (49.20% and 41.90% for birth to 2 years, 28.80% and 41.00% for 2-4 years. The chi square was found to be highly significant showing association of child temperament with parenting styles among mothers with children 2-4 years. Regarding the children of 4-6 years, the table shows that highest per cent of the mothers with authoritative parenting styles (71.80%) were found to have children with highly positive temperament followed by those mothers with children having average temperament (26.90%). With regard to authoritarian mothers, more than half of them (52.40%) were found to have children average temperament followed by those mothers with children having highly positive temperament (47.60%). Chi square analysis showed significance among 4-6 year children with high percentage of authoritative mothers having children with highly positive temperament. Irrespective parenting style, their children had similar level of temperament. Lengua and Kovas (2005) found that during childhood, child's positive emotionality predicted more subsequent maternal acceptance, controlling for earlier acceptance, which indicated that child's positive temperament could elicit parental warmth.

Majority of the children irrespective of their age and parenting style higher per cent of the fathers were found to have children with highly positive temperament (87.90% and 60.00% respectively for birth – 2 years, 84.50% and 54.50% respectively among 2-4 years and 85.50% and 77.80% among 4-6 years). Analysis showed significance among 2-4 year children with high percentage of authoritative father having children with highly positive temperament.

Table 2: Association between child temperament and parenting styles among children by age

Age	Child temperament	Mothers parenting style						X ²	Age	Child temperament	Fathers parenting style						X ²
		Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total					Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total		
		n	%	n	%	N	%				N	%	n	%	n	%	
Birth-2 Yrs (n=94)	Average	31	49.20	13	41.90	44	45.70	0.44 ^{NS}	Birth-2 Yrs (n=71)	Average	8	12.10	2	40.00	10	14.10	2.98 ^{NS}
	Highly positive	32	50.80	18	58.10	50	53.20			58	87.90	3	60.00	61	85.90		
	Total	63	100.0	31	100	94	100.0			66	100.0	5	100.0	71	100.0		
2-4 Yrs (n=109)	Average	23	28.80	16	41.00	39	100.0	6.46*	2-4 Yrs (n=82)	Average	11	15.50	5	45.50	16	19.50	5.44*
	Highly positive	57	71.20	13	44.80	70	64.20			60	84.50	6	54.50	66	80.50		
	Total	80	100.0	29	100.0	109	100.0			71	100.0	11	100.0	82	100.0		
4-6 Yrs (n=99)	Average	21	26.90	12	52.40	33	32.30	4.35*	4-6 Yrs (n=71)	Average	9	14.50	2	22.20	11	15.50	0.35 ^{NS}
	Highly positive	56	71.80	10	47.60	66	66.70			53	85.50	7	77.80	60	84.50		
	Total	78	100.0	21	100.0	99	100.0			62	100.0	9	100.0	71	100.0		

Ns-Non significant *significant at 5 %

A close perusal of table 3 highlights the association between child temperament and parenting style among children by gender. Irrespective of gender and parenting style more than half of the children were found to have highly positive temperament (64.80% and 53.30% among male and 66.40% and 47.20% among female) followed by average temperament (35.20% and 46.20% among male and 33.60% and 52.80% among female). The chi square was found to be significant among female with higher per cent of children

with authoritative mothers having highly positive temperament. Irrespective of gender and parenting style majority of the children were found to have highly positive temperament (83.50% and 63.30% among male and 88.20% and 63.60% among female) followed by average temperament (16.50% and 35.70% among male and 11.80% and 36.40 among female). The chi square value was found significant among female with higher per cent of children with authoritative fathers having highly positive

temperament. Porter et. al., (2005) studied child temperament and parenting style in Beijing, China and the western United States in which he found that male and female children emotionality was positively associated with

authoritarian parenting in both cultures while child activity level was linked to more authoritative and less authoritarian parenting styles.

Table 3: Association between child temperament and parenting styles among children by gender

Gender	Child temperament	Mothers parenting style						X ²	Gender	Child temperament	Fathers parenting style						X ²
		Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total					Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total		
		n	%	n	%	n	%				n	%	n	%	n	%	
Male (n=150)	Average	37	35.20	21	46.20	58	38.70	1.73 ^{NS}	Male (n=111)	Average	16	16.50	5	35.70	21	18.90	2.94 ^{NS}
	Highly positive	68	64.80	24	53.30	92	61.30			81	83.50	9	64.30	90	81.10		
	Total	105	100.0	45	100.0	150	100.0			97	100.00	14	100.0	111	100.00		
Female (n=152)	Average	39	33.60	19	52.80	58	38.20	4.27*	Female (n=113)	Average	12	11.80	4	36.40	16	14.20	4.94*
	Highly positive	77	66.40	17	47.20	94	61.80			90	88.20	7	63.60	97	85.80		
	Total	116	100.0	36	100.0	152	100.0			102	100.00	11	100.0	113	100.00		

Ns-Non significant *significant at 5 %

Table 4: Association between child temperament and parenting styles among children by ordinal position

Ordinal position	Child temperament	Mothers parenting style						X ²	Ordinal position	Child temperament	Fathers parenting style						X ²
		Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total					Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total		
		n	%	n	%	n	%				n	%	n	%	n	%	
First born (n=149)	Average	39	37.90	26	56.50	65	43.60	4.50*	First born (n=112)	Average	9	9.50	6	35.30	15	13.40	8.28**
	Highly positive	64	62.10	20	43.50	84	56.40			86	90.50	11	64.70	97	86.60		
	Total	103	100.0	46	100.0	149	100.0			95	100.0	17	100.0	112	100.0		
Second born (n=115)	Average	29	31.90	10	41.70	39	33.90	0.81 ^{NS}	Second born (n=88)	Average	16	19.80	2	28.60	18	20.50	0.30 ^{NS}
	Highly positive	62	68.10	14	58.30	76	66.10			65	80.20	5	71.40	70	79.50		
	Total	91	100.0	24	100.0	115	100.0			81	100.0	7	100.0	88	100.0		
Later born (n=38)	Average	8	29.60	4	36.40	12	31.60	2.10 ^{NS}	Later born (n=24)	Average	3	13.00	1	100.00	4	16.70	
	Highly positive	19	70.40	7	63.60	26	68.40			20	87.00	-	-	20	83.30		
	Total	27	100.0	11	100.0	38	100.0			23	100.0	1	100.0	24	100.0		

Ns-Non significant *significant at 5 % ** significant at 1 %

The association between child temperament and parenting style ordinal position of the children is depicted in table 4. Among first born children, highest per cent of the children with authoritative parenting style were found to have highly positive temperament (62.10%) followed by average temperament (37.90%). When we consider children with authoritarian parenting style 56.50 per cent of the children were found to have average temperament followed by 43.56 per cent of the children having highly positive temperament. The results of the same table show that, irrespective of their ordinal position and parenting style more than half of the children were found to have highly positive temperament (68.10% and 58.30% among second born and 70.40% and 63.60% among later born) followed by average temperament (31.90% and 41.70% among second born and 29.60% and 36.40% among later born). However the chi square was found significant among first born children with higher percentage of children having authoritative mother with highly positive temperament.

The results show that irrespective of their ordinal position and parenting style higher per cent of the children were found to have highly positive temperament (90.50% and 64.70% among first born, 80.20% and 71.40% among second born) followed by average temperament (9.50% and 35.30% among first born and 19.80% and 28.60% among second born). However the chi square was found significant among first born children with higher percentage of children

having authoritative father with highly positive temperament. Among later born children, highest per cent of the children with authoritative father were found to have highly positive temperament (87.00%) followed by average temperament (13.00%). Findings of Nezhad et. al., (2014) found that positive parenting predicted children's temperamental persistence, even after autoregressive controls. Further the study pointed out that siblings of parents who have high levels of positive parenting are more similar to one another in having level of temperament.

Table 5 shows the distribution of children by behavioural problems. With respect to mothers, it is clear that, higher per cent of the children (82.12%) were found to have low behavioural problems followed by children with average behavioural problems (15.56%) and high behavioural problems (2.3%). In case of fathers, almost all children (92.90%) were found to have low behavioural problems followed by children with average behavioural problems (6.20%) and high behavioural problems (0.90%). These results were supported by Talib et. al., (2011) in which results indicated that for mothers and fathers positive parenting (authoritative style) had positive effects on children behaviour and school achievement which showed that children with positive parenting style tend to have less behavioural problems as compared to children who received the permissive and authoritarian styles.

Table 5: Percentage distribution of parents by behavioural problems

Child Behavioural problems	Mothers		Fathers	
	n	%	n	%
Low (79 and below)	248	82.12	208	92.90
Average (80-109)	47	15.56	14	6.20
High (110-130)	7	2.32	2	0.90
Total	302	100.00	224	100.00

The results of the table 6 shows the association between child behavioural problems and parenting styles by age. The results show that, irrespective of age and parenting style majority of the mothers (84.10% and 90.30% among birth to 2 years, 82.50% and 72.40% among 2-4 years and 84.60% and 66.70% among 4-6 years) were found to have children

with low behavioural problems. The results of the same table depict that, irrespective of parenting style and age, higher per cent of the fathers (95.50% and 100% of birth-2 years, 88.70% and 90.90% of 2-4 years and 93.50% and 100%) were found to have children with low behavioural problems. These findings were supported by Aunola & Nurmi, 2005; Elgar, Waschbusch, Dadds & Sigvaldasson, 2007 which showed discipline, consistency or behavioural control used by the parents are related with less problems in children of any age. In this sense, specific parenting practices such as setting limits, communication, autonomy or monitoring are described as good predictors of adaptive behaviour among children.

Table 6: Association between child behavioural problems and parenting styles among children by age

Age	Child behavioral problems	Mothers parenting style						X ²	Age	Child behavioral problems	Fathers parenting style						X ²
		Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total					Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total		
		n	%	n	%	n	%				n	%	n	%	n	%	
Birth-2 Yrs (n=94)	Low	53	84.10	28	90.30	81	86.20	1.23 ^{NS}	Birth-2 Yrs (n=71)	Low	63	95.50	5	100.0	68	95.80	0.16 ^{NS}
	Average	8	12.70	3	9.70	11	11.70			Average	3	4.50	-	-	3	4.20	
	High	2	3.20	-	-	2	2.10			High	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Total	63	100.0	31	100.0	94	100.0			Total	66	100.0	5	100.0	71	100.0	
2-4 Yrs (n=109)	Low	66	82.50	21	72.40	87	79.80	4.65 ^{NS}	2-4 Yrs (n=82)	Low	63	88.70	10	90.90	73	89.00	0.16 ^{NS}
	Average	10	12.50	8	27.60	18	20.20			Average	7	9.90	1	9.10	8	9.80	
	High	4	5.0	-	-	4	3.70			High	1	1.40	-	-	1	1.20	
	Total	80	100.0	29	100.0	109	100.0			Total	71	100.0	11	100.0	82	100.0	
4-6 Yrs (n=99)	Low	66	84.60	14	66.70	80	80.80	4.29 ^{NS}	4-6 Yrs (n=71)	Low	58	93.50	9	100.0	67	94.40	0.16 ^{NS}
	Average	11	14.10	7	33.30	18	18.20			Average	3	4.80	-	-	3	4.20	
	High	1	1.30	-	-	1	1.0			High	1	1.60	-	-	1	1.40	
	Total	78	100.0	21	100.0	99	100.0			Total	62	100.0	9	100.0	71	100.0	

Ns-Non significant

The data presented in the table 7 depicts the association between child behavioural problems and parenting style by gender. With regard to mother parenting style, irrespective of gender and parenting style, higher per cent of the children were found to have children with low behavioural problems (84.00% and 77.30% among male and 86.10% and 70.30% among female) followed by children having average behavioural problems (12.30% and 22.70% among male

11.30% and 29.70% among female). however on analysis, the association was found significant among male children. with respect to fathers parenting style it is clear that, irrespective of gender and parenting style, highest per cent of the children were found to have children with low behavioural problems (94.00% and 92.90% among male and 90.20% and 100% among female children).

Table 7: Association between child behavioural problems and parenting style among children by gender

Gender	Child Behavioral Problems	Mothers parenting style						X ²	Gender	Child Behavioral Problems	Fathers parenting style						X ²
		Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total					Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total		
		n	%	n	%	n	%				n	%	n	%	n	%	
Male (n=150)	Low	89	84.00	34	77.30	123	82.0	4.05 ^{NS}	Male (n=111)	Low	92	94.80	13	92.90	105	94.60	0.39 ^{NS}
	Average	13	12.30	10	22.70	23	15.30			Average	4	4.20	1	7.10	5	94.5	
	High	4	3.80	0	0.00	4	2.70			High	1	1.00	-	-	1	0.90	
	Total	106	100.0	44	100.0	150	100.00			Total	97	100.0	14	100.00	111	100.0	
Female (n=152)	Low	99	86.1	26	70.3	125	82.2	7.83*	Female (n=113)	Low	92	90.20	11	100.00	103	91.20	0.39 ^{NS}
	Average	13	11.3	11	29.7	24	15.8			Average	9	8.80	-	-	9	8.0	
	High	3	2.6	-	-	3	2.0			High	1	1.0	-	-	1	0.90	
	Total	115	100.00	37	100.0	152	100.00			Total	102	100.0	11	100.00	113	100.00	

Ns-Non significant *significant at 5 %

The association between behavioural problems and parenting style by ordinal position is depicted in the table 8. Majority of the authoritative mothers (85.40%) of first born were found to have children with low behavioural problems

followed by those mothers with children having average behavioural problems (12.60%) and very meager percentage of them (1.9%) with children having high behavioural problems. With regard to mothers with authoritarian

parenting style, three fourth of them (73.90%) were found to have first born children with low behavioural problems followed by those mothers with average behavioural problems (26.10%). The chi square was found to be not significant.

Considering the second born, the results reveal that, highest per cent of the authoritative mothers (80.20%) of second born were found to have children with low behavioural problems followed by those mothers with children having average behavioural problems (16.50%) and three of with children having high behavioural problems. With regard to mothers with authoritarian parenting style, highest per cent of them (79.20%) were found to have first born children with low behavioural problems followed by those mothers with average behavioural problems (20.80%). The chi square analysis showed no significant association.

Looking at the later born children, it is clear that majority of the authoritative mothers (88.90%) were found to have children with low behavioural problems followed by those mothers with children having high behavioural problems (7.40%) and average behavioural problems (3.70%).

However, in case of mothers with authoritarian parenting style, higher per cent of them (90.90%) were found to have children with low behavioural problems followed by those mothers with children having average behavioural problems (9.10%). However none of them were found to have high behavioural problems. The chi square was found to be not significant. results of the same table shows that, irrespective of parenting style and ordinal position, higher per cent of the fathers (96.90% and 81.20% of first born, 90.00% and 100% second born and 91.30% and 100% of later born) were found to have children with low behavioural problems. Irrespective of ordinal position of children and their parenting style children had similar behavioural problems. These findings are contradictory to results of Tamrouti-Makkink, Semon-Dubas, Gerris, and van Aken (2004) in which results pointed out that perceptions of parents' differential treatment resulted in developing feeling of partiality among children. Further results indicated that older children reported that they were experiencing more discipline and less warmth but less behavioural problems than their younger siblings where they are experiencing lower levels of self-esteem and greater internalizing problems.

Table 8: Association between child behavioral problems and parenting styles among children by ordinal position

Ordinal position	Child behavioral problems	Mothers parenting style						X ²	Ordinal position	Child behavioral problems	Fathers parenting style						X ²
		Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total					Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total		
		n	%	n	%	n	%				n	%	n	%	n	%	
First born (n=149)	Low	88	85.40	34	73.90	122	81.90	4.84 ^{NS}	First born (n=112)	Low	93	96.90	13	81.20	106	94.60	6.60 ^{**}
	Average	13	12.60	12	26.10	25	16.80			Average	3	3.10	3	18.80	6	5.40	
	High	2	1.90	-	-	2	1.30			High	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Total	103	100.0	46	100.0	149	100.0			Total	96	100.0	16	100.0	112	100.0	
Second born (n=115)	Low	73	80.20	19	79.20	92	80.00	1.00 ^{NS}	Second born (n=88)	Low	72	90.00	8	100.0	80	90.90	
	Average	15	16.50	5	20.80	20	17.40			Average	7	8.80	-	-	7	8.00	
	High	3	3.30	-	-	3	2.60			High	1	1.20	-	-	1	1.10	
	Total	91	100.0	24	100.0	115	100.0			Total	80	100.0	8	100.0	88	100.0	
Later born (n=38)	Low	24	88.90	10	90.90	34	89.50	1.24 ^{NS}	Later born (n=24)	Low	21	91.30	1	100.0	22	91.70	
	Average	1	3.70	1	9.10	2	5.30			Average	1	4.30	-	-	1	4.20	
	High	2	7.40	-	-	2	5.30			High	1	4.30	-	-	1	4.20	
	Total	27	100.0	11	100.0	38	100.0			Total	23	100.0	1	100.0	24	100.0	

Ns-Non significant ** significant at 1%

4. Conclusion

Majority of the children were found to have highly positive temperament. Chi square analysis showed significant association among 2-4 year 4-6 year in case of mothers style of parenting and 2-4 year in case of father style of parenting revealing that, children with high percentage of authoritative parents having children with highly positive temperament. Irrespective of age, gender and ordinal position of children and irrespective of parenting style children had positive temperament followed by average temperament. Majority of children found to have low behavioural problems. Irrespective of age, gender and ordinal position of children and parenting style children tend to have low behavioural problems followed by high and average behavioural problems.

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