

Parental Authority and Its Effects on the Aggression of Children

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Abstract - *This research examines the parental authority and its effects on the aggression of children. The main purpose of this study is to determine the types of parenting style being practiced by the parent respondents, and correlate it with children's aggressive behavior. Participants of the study were children ages twelve to eighteen and their parent (either the mother or the father) who was in Batangas City. The researchers employed pure quantitative design, using three different standardized tests. The study revealed that parental authority is average and above average on anger and fighting as regards to their aggressive behavior. It was also revealed on the study that anger of children is correlated positively with authoritarian parenting style manifested by the parents. Parenting authority and parental discipline are correlated to aggression of children.*

Keywords: *authoritarian, over reactivity, aggressive, parenting style*

I. INTRODUCTION

Sometimes people wondered why their friends keep on hitting them whenever they are excited or very happy. Or others easily slap the face of their when they do not share their food. This may be cause of the aggressive environment that varies on how a person is raised by his parents. This would be an interesting matter for those who have children, and to those who have hostile aggressive parents. There are many ways on how parents show their concern in bearing their child. Parenting is a reciprocal process where the parent influences the child's development, and in return, the child influences the parent (Shaw, 2007). However, parents differ in raising a child. There is different parenting method that is flaunted by the parents to establish good and harmonious relationships with their children. This parenting method would have effect in children development not just physically but psychologically, emotionally and morally development. There would have conflicts if the researcher assures the thoughts of temperate parents would have positive outcome and aggressive parents would have negative outcome.

According to Silva, et al.(2007) children reared by authoritarian mothers experienced higher levels of anxiety and children reared by authoritative fathers experienced lower levels of anxiety. Authoritative parenting is a best balance of responsiveness and demandingness. Vernonbeck (2007) added that hostile-aggressive parenting affects children behavior. Children performed poorly in school and unable to communicate with the parent. The parent also had difficulty communicating with the child. Since aggressive parenting is experienced by the children they may imitate it or do the same things with other, which they think is normal. Children who have treated aggressively by their parents have fear of giving suggestion and socializing with others.

Meanwhile, Baumrind (2009) said that parenting style has a straight effect in shaping individual's development. The way parents interact with their children has an impact on their level of confidence and self-esteem. Children who lived with low self-belief have difficulties in showing their capabilities in expressing their feeling and reaction about a situation. Maturation and development of children are affected whenever they experienced low self-esteem. Children who are guided by authoritarian parents think that they are ready to live their life independently at early age.

There are many factors affecting the child's development. Parents are supposedly the one showing the right parenting style their children. Whether it is a positive or negative kind of parenting it can be the guide of the child in coping with real life outside their family. Researchers found out that socialization processes in the family provides consistent evidence that certain parental behaviors are associated with positive and negative outcomes in children. Also, parenting helps in the developmental success and well-being of emerging adults.

In some parts of the world physical discipline is still practiced, because it is known to be the best way to discipline their children. Physical punishment does not only mean a way of discipline it is a way of reinforcing physical discomfort among children. As individuals who also experience aggressive parenting, the researchers come up with the study that would helpful

to the parents and the children as well. Nowadays, physical discipline is still practiced by some parents, which results negative impact among children. It is not physically and psychologically healthy. As observed during the past years, those who were raised by spanking, slapping, etc. developed low esteem as individuals (Neon, 2010). Some parents do not understand the impact on their children, which carry or impose as they grow up.

The researchers suspect that different styles of parenting affect the individual as he grows; and that aggressive parenting may bring negative effects to their children. Moreover the researchers predict that there are some factors that trigger the parents on becoming 'aggressive'. Aggressive behavior of children is brought about by the parenting style that is imposed by the parents.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study aimed to determine the respondents' level of authoritarian parenting style; to identify the parental discipline rendered by parents to their children; to find out the possible causal relationship of authoritative parenting and parental discipline; to identify the aggressive form of behavior manifested by children; to find out the relationship of parenting style, parental discipline and aggression of children, and to propose a plan of action that addresses the results of the study.

III. METHOD

There are several strategies that give employed in order to achieve the results in the given objectives. It involves research design, instruments, participants, and procedures, as well as the analysis of the collected details are which used to provide information on the analysis of the study. Through this the researcher can easily achieved the aim of the study.

Research Design

The researchers used pure quantitative design in which events can be quantified so that the final data are numerical. The correlational method is the best method to determine whether two variables are related without attempting to manipulate the variables or draw causal conclusions (Santrock 2000). The variable being measured in the research is parenting style which is determined through a questionnaire scale and, psychosocial aggression of children, which is determined through and scale.

Participants

Participants were 150 parent and children in Batangas City. Parents were chosen regardless of their socio-economic status, and gender. However, children should be at least 12 to 18 years old.

Measures

For quantitative analysis the researchers made use of Standardized Parenting Authoritative Scale by Dr. John R. Buri and another Standardized Parenting Scale of Susan G. O'Leary, et al., The PAQ is scored easily by summing the individual items to comprise the subscale scores. Scores in each subscale range from 10 to 50. Each item receives a 1-7 score, where 7 is the "ineffective" end of the item. To compute the total score, average the responses on all items. To compute a factor score, average the responses in the items in that factor. Scoring and analysis point values are assigned as follows: No opportunity = 1 Never = 1, 1 or 2 times = 2, 3 or 4 times = 3, 5 or more times = 4. The fighting subscale is calculated by reverse coding Item 5 and summing across all five items. A total of 20 points is possible and a high score indicates more aggression or fighting. The other three subscales are calculated similarly, by summing across all responses. The Bullying subscale has a total of 16 points; the Anger subscale has 20 points; and the Caring/Cooperative Behavior subscale has 3 points. High scores indicate more bullying behavior, more anger, and more caring/cooperative behavior.

Procedure

The research topic about parenting was first proposed to the professor as the researcher cannot conduct any formal study unless the topic was been approved. After the topic approval the researcher then conducted the pilot study to test if there was anything unnecessary or not relevant in their study. After finding related literature the researchers moved on to data gathering. The researchers approach the Barangay Captain to inform about the research that they were about to administer the parents and child tandem in the barangay. Having introduced themselves as researchers they conducted and the research proper. They informed the parents that at least of their children who will on the age range will be involved in the study with a consent form which contains the purpose of experiment and an approval signature of the professor. While the signed of every participant was needed if they were willing to be part of the researchers experiment. The researcher provides thirty questions for the children. In this, the participants answered the questions that will measure

their parent's style of parenting. Parental Authority Questionnaire was used to determine whether the children are experiencing maltreatment from their parents which is composed of thirty questions answered by the children. On parenting scale questionnaire presented to the parents, it measured their ability in guiding their children and their parenting skills either positive or negative techniques. After the researcher had gathered 150 parents showing authoritarian parenting style the researchers will then go on to the next procedure of the study. The parents will then answer the parental discipline render in the family. Afterwards the child will answer the Aggression scale that measures their aggression towards others.

Data Analysis

The data that have been collected are computed using Pearson r. The Pearson R correlation tells you the magnitude and direction of the association between two variables that are on an interval or ratio scale. Analysis of variance was also used to compute correlations of three or more variables.

IV. RESULTS

Table 1. Level of Authoritarian Parenting

Variable	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Permissive	39.30	4.50	Average
Authoritarian	39.71	4.26	Average
Authoritative	39.96	4.53	Average

Table 1 shows the level of authoritarian parenting style to the children respondent ages twelve to eighteen. Permissive parenting style has the lowest mean of 39.30, authoritarian parenting mean is 39.96 and the highest level is the authoritative with the mean of 39.96.

It also reveals that most of the parents render average level of authoritarian parenting. Authoritarian parenting is described as a style that values unquestioning obedience and an attempt to control the behavior of the child, often through punitive disciplinary practices.

Table 2. Parental Discipline Rendered by Parents Respondents toward their Children

Variable	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Laxness	50.73	8.19	Average
Over-reactivity	54.28	5.97	Above Average
Verbosity	37.18	5.04	Below Average

Table 2 proved the parenting discipline rendered by the parents. Parents were found to be over reactive among their children as shown in the table with the highest mean of 54.28, Moreover, they have an average level of laxness with the mean of 50.73 and lowest level is of verbosity with the mean of 37.96.

Table 3. Relationship between Parenting Style and Parental Discipline

Variable	Mean	SD	1	2	3	4	5	6
Parenting Authority	39.3	4.5				.181		
1. Permissive		0				*		
2. Authoritarian	39.7	4.2						
3. Authoritative	39.9	4.5						
Parental Discipline								
4. Laxness	50.7	8.1	.181					
5. Overreactivity	54.2	5.9						
6. Verbosity	37.1	5.0						

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2 tailed)

Table 3 tells that permissive parenting is correlated to laxness of the parent as the parental discipline rendered, with r_{xy} value of .181* as seen in the table using analysis of variance.

Table 4. Aggressive form of Behavior Manifested by the Children

Variable	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Fighting	13.82	2.39	Average
Bullying	10.60	1.99	Below Average
Anger	13.84	2.65	Average
Caring	23.62	3.24	High Average

The table illustrates that children ages twelve to eighteen manifest average level of fighting and bullying or experience aggression towards others. Despite the result it is still found that they still care among others. The result found out the highest level caring with the mean of 23.62, above average of anger with the mean of 13.84 while having average level of fighting with the mean of 13.82 and has the lowest level of bullying with the mean of 10.60.

Table 5. Relationship of Parenting Style, Parental Discipline and Aggressive Behavior of children

VARIABLE	Mean	St dev.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PARENT												
1. PERMISSIVE	39.30	4.50								.181*		
2. AUTHORITARIAN	39.71	4.26						.171*				
3. AUTHORITATIVE	39.96	4.53										
CHILDREN												
4. FIGTHING	13.82	2.39										
5. BULLYING	10.60	1.99										
6. ANGER	13.84	2.65		.171*								
7. CARING	23.62	3.24										
PARENT												
8. LAXNESS	50.73	8.19	.181*									
9. OVER REACTIVITY	54.26	5.97										
10. VERBOSITY	37.18	5.04										

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2 tailed)

The table 5 confirms that there are relationships between parenting style of the respondents with the aggression form of behavior manifested by the children. Anger is correlated to authoritarian parenting with r_{xy} value of .171*. Permissive parenting style is correlated to laxness of the parent with r_{xy} value.181*. Laxness of

the parent is correlated negatively to caring of the children with r_{xy} value of $-.169^*$. This means that as the parent deliver laxness to their child, the higher the parent doesn't care at all, the lower the children manifest care to others.

Table 6. Action Plan

Objectives	Strategies	Person Involved	Success Measure
1. To reduce the level of aggression (fighting and bullying) among children.	Conduct seminar and activity about caring FOR others.	Children (Friends and Classmates)	Children's awareness of the feelings of others
2. To promote children's relationship with their peers.	Group dynamics among children	Children Classmates	

V. DISCUSSION

This study found out that most parents in Batangas City manifest authoritative parenting style, with the highest mean among the three subscales under authoritarian parenting style. As for them, the situations

of the respondents varied with their variables. They chose crowded places in Batangas City, for they revealed that proximity of people affects behavior.

For the parental discipline rendered by the respondents, it was proven that most of them were over

reactive among their children. Over reactive parents possess unnecessary reaction or inappropriate force, emotional display or violence. Researchers have discovered that the parents of young children, who are reactionary and tend to over-react, are more likely to have toddlers who act out and become upset easily. This was merely suspected by the researchers because under the three subscales, it is either the parent will be over reactive or verbose when someone possess authoritarian parenting style.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

Parenting style significantly predicts parental discipline of the respondents. Permissive parents who are also easy-going correlate with laxness as parental discipline rendered. This finding is consistent with the study of Scott, et al (2007), which has reported a significant relationship between high levels of parental warmth and lower levels of externalizing behavior problem in children.

This research suggests that lack of involvement, as well as poor monitoring and supervision of children's activities strongly predicts anti social behavior. Parents of children with anti-social behavior are likely to be less positive, more permissive and inconsistent.

As suspected by the researchers' children who were raised by authoritative parents manifest aggressive form of behavior towards others. Using a scale that would verify the behavior of the children, it was discovered that most of children, the aged of thirteen experience fighting and among the respondents it shows that the age fifteen were found bullied and those aged twelve manifest anger towards others. Despite the results, respondents were still found caring to others. This finding is consistent with the study of Apsaa Executive Council (2010), which disclosed that children who are hit identify with aggression are more likely to become hitters themselves, bullies and future abusers of children. It has been argued that Baumrind approached her parenting styles and the descriptions behind each of them from an ethnocentric approach. Words like "restrictive" or "authoritarian" may not be as relevant for other cultures because parental monitoring and some degrees of strictness could be viewed as signs of parental concern and involvement (Ablett et al., 2013). In other words, the way individualist define words and attach meaning to them may be different than someone who is from a collectivist culture. For example, authoritarian might be defined as caring and concerned parents to Asians but might appear controlling to European Americans.

Research found that there is significant relationship between parenting style, parental discipline and aggression of children manifested towards others.

As the participants of this study were all from Batangas City, the results and implications of the study may not be generalized to the rest of the Philippines. For the future studies researchers recommend of having additional method to be used for more reliable result. Another thing is to have higher number of participants. Since the study only included parents of twelve to eighteen year old children, future researchers should consider parents of different development stage. Future studies are also recommended to incorporate both parents in the study.

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