



## Full Length Research Article

### PARENTING STYLES ADOPTED BY MOTHERS OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN ACCORDING TO MOTHER VARIABLES

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#### ABSTRACT

Parenting styles are defined as set of attitudes; beliefs and goals parents have and put into practice in their daily interactions with their children. Baumrind (1971) has mentioned three types of parenting styles viz., authoritative/democratic, authoritarian and permissive parenting styles. The present study was under taken to know the parenting styles adopted by mothers of pre-school children. The study sample were mothers of 220 preschool children in Tirupati and Hyderabad towns where three types of pre-schools viz., laboratory nursery schools, anganwadi centers and private schools were available. Mothers were administered with Parenting Style Questionnaire. Results revealed that Majority of the mothers were following authoritative parenting style. Mothers differed significant in implementing authoritarian parenting style according to their age. Mothers did not differ in their parenting styles according to their birth order. Mothers differed significantly in using permissive parenting style according to their education qualification and occupation.

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#### INTRODUCTION

Parenting style refers to the normative patterns of behaviour and practices that parents use to socialize and control their children. Parenting style is a psychological construct representing standard strategies that parents use in their childrearing. Parenting practices are a way of expressing the parenting styles. According to Baumrind (1971), the following are the methods of implementation of different parenting styles. *Authoritarian Parenting Style:* This term describes parents, who show low support, control their children, and demand them to follow specific rules. Lower responsiveness and higher demanding are two elements that describe authoritarian parenting. Parents who scored higher on demanding and lower on responsiveness are considered as authoritarian parents. Authoritarian parents are frequently not warm. *Authoritative Parenting Style:* This term refers to parents who are responsive, supporting, and attached to their children.

Responsiveness and demanding are two elements that describe authoritative parenting. Parents who scored higher on both responsiveness and demanding are considered authoritative parents. These parents demonstrate warmth and involvement with their children. They listen actively to their children and encourage them to make their own decisions.

*Permissive Parenting Style:* This term describes parents who exhibit behaviours that highly support their children and are very lenient to their children. High responsiveness and lack of demanding are two elements that describe permissive parenting. Parents who are more receptive and less demanding are considered permissive parents

**Objectives:** The followings are the objectives of the study

- To know the parenting styles adopted by mothers of pre-school children
- To assess whether parenting styles adopted by mother differ according to age of the mother
- To assess whether parenting styles adopted by mother differ according to birth order of the mother

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- To assess whether parenting styles adopted by mother differ according to education of the mother
- To assess whether parenting styles adopted by mother differ according to occupation of the mother

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Tools

The following tool was specially developed for present research purpose.

### Parenting Styles Questionnaire

It consists of two sections. section I includes General Information, Section II deals with questions related to three types of parenting styles viz, 1.Authoritarian, 2.Authoritative and 3.Permissive. The tool was standardized following techniques for establishing reliability and validity.

**Sample:** The sample of the study constituted 220 pre-school children (110 boys and 110 girls) who belonged to different types of pre-schools (Laboratory nursery school, Anganwadi center and Private schools) at Tirupati and Hyderabad. Mothers of the selected children that is (n= 220) constituted the sub samples of the study.

### Data Collection

Stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample. In the first stage 5 Government schools (4 Anganwadicenters and one Laboratory nursery school) and 5 private schools were selected randomly from each area. In the next stage, children in the age group of 4+ years and 5+ years in three types of schools were selected using stratified random sampling technique. Thus, 110 boys and 110 girls were identified from different settings of 20 schools from Tirupati and Hyderabad. The home addresses of these children were collected from school records. The investigator personally visited homes and established good rapport with the parents of the sample children. Parents were administered with

### Parenting Styles Questionnaire.

The data obtained from final study was scored and suitable statistical analysis were performed.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data collected from the Parenting Styles Questionnaire was scored and based on the scores as per the scoring sheet the sample mothers were classified into three groups viz., Authoritarian, Authoritative and Permissive. The mean scores obtained for three types of parenting styles adopted by mothers viz., Authoritarian, Authoritative and Permissive were 46.77 (SD=14.590), 55.04 (SD=12.743), 32.61 (SD=7.624) respectively. Based on the mean  $\pm$  1 SD again sample mothers under each category of parenting styles were divided into three groups *ie.*, less authoritarian, moderate authoritarian and more authoritarian. Similarly mothers were classified under democratic/authoritative and permissive styles.

Table 1 shows the distribution of the sample according to parenting styles adopted by mothers

**Table 1. Distribution of the Sample According to Parenting Styles Adopted by Mothers**

Sl.No	Type of Parenting Styles	Mothers	
		Number	Per cent
	Authoritarian		
1	Less authoritarian	105	47.7
2	Moderate authoritarian	59	26.8
3	More authoritarian	56	25.5
	Total	220	100.0
	Democratic/Authoritative		
1	Less Democratic	22	10.0
2	Moderate Democratic	134	60.9
3	More Democratic	64	29.1
	Total	220	100.0
	Permissive		
1	Less Permissive	127	57.7
2	Moderate Permissive	80	36.4
3	More Permissive	13	5.9
	Total	220	100.0

From Table 1, it is evident that mothers followed three types of parenting styles depending on the situations. When parenting styles implemented by mothers were compared half of the mothers (47.7 per cent) were less authoritarian. Next to it one fourth of mothers (26.6 per cent) were moderately authoritarian. Next to it when authoritative parenting style adopted by mothers were compared, majority of the mothers (60.9 per cent) were moderately authoritative. One third of the mothers (29.1 per cent) were more authoritative and only few of 10 per cent of mothers were less authoritative. With regard to permissive parenting style, more than half of the sample mothers 57.7 per cent were less permissive and 36.4 per cent of mothers were moderately permissive. Only 5.9 per cent of mothers were less permissive. In a study Sobita (2014), she reported that authoritative style of parenting is considered the most advantageous form of parenting, and mothers of the present study were also practicing advantageous form of parenting style. Table 2 shows the relationship between parenting styles adopted by mothers according to age of the mother.

It is clear from table 2 that mothers differed significant in implementing authoritarian parenting style according to their age. The f value was significant (3.217  $P < 0.05$ ). As the age of the mother was increased the usage of authoritarian parenting style has been decreased. Mothers did not differ significantly in adopting democratic and permissive parenting style according to their age. The f values were not significant. The reason may be that young mothers will be more anxious to control the behavior of children. As the age increases mothers will have experience with older children and hence implementation of authoritarian parenting styles may decreased. Table 3 shows the mean difference between parenting styles adopted by mothers according to birth order of the mother. Table 3 shows the data about parenting styles adopted by mothers according to their birth order. Mothers did not differ in their parenting styles according to their birth order. The f- values were not significant. A perusal of the table 3 shows that the mean scores for permissive type of style was increased with the increase of birth order of mothers. Birth order of third born and above shows that those mothers were younger in their families and hence they might have

experienced less control by their own parents. Table 4 shows the mean difference between parenting styles adopted by mothers according to education of the mothers.

according to occupation of the mother. It is evident from table 5 that mothers did not differ significantly in adopting authoritarian and democratic parenting styles according to

**Table 2. Mean Difference between Parenting Styles Adopted by Mothers according to Age of the Mother**

Sl.no	Age of the Mother	Mother-Authoritarian		Mother-Democratic		Mother-Permissive	
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
1	Below 25 Years (n=60)	48.83	13.970	56.68	11.619	34.25	8.779
2	25-30 Years (n=80)	47.03	15.351	54.56	13.460	32.29	6.124
3	30-35 Years (n=63)	47.19	13.914	53.48	13.176	31.65	6.818
4	40 years and above (n=17)	36.71	12.474	57.29	11.455	31.94	11.459
	Total N=220	46.77	14.590	55.04	12.743	32.61	7.624
f. Value			3.217*	.862@		1.356@	

\*P<0.05, \*\* P<0.001, @ not significant

**Table 3. Mean Difference between Parenting Styles Adopted by Mother according to Birth Order of the Mother**

Sl.no	Birth order of the Mother	Mother-Authoritarian		Mother-Democratic		Mother-Permissive	
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
1	First Born (n=55)	46.64	14.049	56.11	11.839	31.76	7.045
2	Second Born (n=111)	46.49	15.683	53.96	13.365	32.38	8.049
3	Third Born and above (n=54)	47.48	12.933	56.17	12.348	33.96	7.240
4	Total N=220	46.77	14.590	55.04	12.743	32.61	7.624
f-Value			.087@	.799@		1.243@	

\*P<0.05, \*\* P<0.001, @ not significant

**Table 4. Mean Difference between Parenting Styles Adopted by Mothers According to Education of the Mother**

Sl.no	Education of the Mother	Mother-Authoritarian		Mother-Democratic		Mother-Permissive	
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
1	Primary school (n=16)	55.62	15.599	50.56	14.715	33.19	6.188
2	Secondary school (n=57)	47.14	12.593	56.72	10.887	30.79	5.105
3	Intermediate (n=85)	45.95	15.873	54.79	13.158	32.51	8.283
4	Graduation(n=36)	45.92	14.119	56.53	14.508	31.08	4.825
5	P.G and professional degree (n=26)	44.35	13.338	52.88	11.094	38.73	10.702
	Total N=220	46.77	14.590	55.04	12.743	32.61	7.624
f. Value			1.785@	1.059@		5.870**	

\*P<0.05, \*\* P<0.001, @ not significant

**Table 5. Mean Difference between Parenting Styles Adopted by Mothers according to Occupation of the Mother**

Sl.no	Occupation of the Mother	Mother-Authoritarian		Mother-Democratic		Mother-Permissive	
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
1	House wife (n=100)	47.18	14.013	55.74	10.028	33.89	6.954
2	Govt job (n=23)	50.61	16.749	52.30	16.875	27.87	4.874
3	Private job (n=42)	44.98	14.448	53.40	15.043	31.76	6.789
4	Others (n=55)	45.78	14.846	56.16	13.375	32.93	9.440
	Total	46.77	14.590	55.04	12.743	32.61	7.624
f. Value			.851@	.825@		4.294**	

\*P<0.05, \*\* P<0.001, @ not significant

It is evident from Table 5 that mothers did not differ significantly in adopting authoritarian and democratic parenting styles according to their education. The f values were not significant. Mothers differed significantly in using permissive parenting style according to their education qualification. The f value was significant (5.870 P<0.001). Mothers who had education up to graduation and below seemed to be less permissive than mothers who had education qualification of PG and above. Higher educational qualification might have helped parents to understand children's behavior. In a study Durrant et al, 1999 findings of his study highlighted that less educated parents who use physical punishment more, however the results of present study also shows that less educated parents use more authoritarian parenting style. Table 5 shows the mean difference between parenting styles adopted by mothers

their occupation. The f values were not significant. Mothers differed significantly in using permissive parenting style according to their occupation. The f value (4.294 P<0.001) was significant. Even though the mean score indicates that, mothers who were performing government jobs 50.61(SD=16.749) were using more authoritarian style than others. It might be the working mothers will have more ambitions towards their children and they want their children to reach their goals, hence they implement more authoritarian parenting style compared to non working mothers.

## Conclusions

- Majority of the mothers were following authoritative parenting style.

- Mothers differed significant in implementing authoritarian parenting style according to their age.
- Mothers did not differ significantly in adopting democratic and permissive parenting style according to their age.
- Mothers did not differ in their parenting styles according to their birth order.
- Mothers differed significantly in using permissive parenting style according to their education qualification.
- Mothers differed significantly in using permissive parenting style according to their occupation.

#### Implications of the Study

- The present study will be helpful to educate and create awareness among young parents to know about appropriate parenting styles and disciplinary techniques

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