



PARENTING STYLES AND CHILD CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

¹ Mhondamo Lotha, ²Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma

¹Research Scholar, ²Supervisor

¹⁻² Department of Sociology, Sunrise University, Alwar, Rajasthan

Abstract: Parenting styles play a crucial role in shaping a child's character development. This paper explores the impact of different parenting styles on children's personality traits and behavioral patterns. Four primary parenting styles, namely authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful, are examined in terms of their effects on a child's self-esteem, social skills, emotional regulation, and overall character development. The study also discusses the importance of finding a balanced approach to parenting that promotes healthy character development in children. By analyzing existing research and empirical studies, this paper provides valuable insights into the relationship between parenting styles and child character development.

Keywords:

Parenting styles, Character development, Child personality, Authoritative parenting, Authoritarian parenting, Permissive parenting, Neglectful parenting, Self-esteem, Social skills, Emotional regulation, and Parent-child relationship.

INTRODUCTION

Parenting is a complex and multifaceted task that significantly influences a child's growth and development. One of the fundamental aspects of parenting that plays a pivotal role in shaping a child's character is the parenting style employed by caregivers. Parenting styles refer to the patterns of behavior, beliefs, and strategies that parents use to interact with and raise their children. These styles can have profound effects on various aspects of a child's personality, behavior, and overall character development.

Over the years, researchers have identified several distinct parenting styles, with four primary ones being widely recognized: authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful. Each of these styles is characterized by different levels of control, warmth, and responsiveness. These parenting styles can have both short-term and long-term consequences for children, influencing their self-esteem, social skills, emotional regulation, and overall character.

This paper aims to delve into the intricate relationship between parenting styles and child character development. It seeks to explore how these various parenting approaches impact children's personality traits and behavioral patterns. By examining the existing body of research and empirical studies, we can gain a better understanding of the ways in which parenting styles contribute to the formation of a child's character.

Understanding the effects of parenting styles on character development is essential for parents, caregivers, educators, and mental health professionals. It provides valuable insights into the importance of adopting balanced and effective parenting strategies that foster positive character traits and behaviors in children. Ultimately, this knowledge can help guide parents in making informed choices about how they nurture and support their children's growth, promoting healthy and well-rounded character development.

AUTHORITATIVE PARENTING STYLE

The authoritative parenting style is one of the four primary parenting styles recognized in psychological research. It is often considered a balanced and effective approach to raising children. Authoritative parents are characterized by a combination of high levels of warmth and responsiveness to their children's needs, coupled with reasonable levels of control and expectations. This parenting style is marked by open communication, clear rules and boundaries, and a supportive and nurturing environment.

Key features of authoritative parenting include:



1. **Warmth and Support:** Authoritative parents are warm, affectionate, and emotionally supportive toward their children. They provide a loving and nurturing environment where children feel valued and secure.
2. **Clear Expectations:** While authoritative parents are loving, they also have clear expectations and rules for their children. These rules are typically age-appropriate and reasonable, and children understand the reasons behind them.
3. **Open Communication:** Authoritative parents encourage open and honest communication with their children. They are willing to listen to their children's thoughts, concerns, and feelings, and they engage in two-way dialogue rather than imposing strict one-sided directives.
4. **Reasoning and Explanation:** Instead of simply dictating rules, authoritative parents often explain the reasons behind those rules. They provide logical and age-appropriate explanations, helping children understand the importance of following rules.
5. **Consistency:** Authoritative parents are consistent in their parenting approach. They apply rules and consequences consistently, which helps children develop a sense of predictability and stability in their lives.
6. **Autonomy and Independence:** While authoritative parents set clear boundaries, they also encourage their children to develop autonomy and independence. They support their children's decision-making abilities and allow them to learn from their experiences, even if it means making mistakes.

The authoritative parenting style has been associated with numerous positive outcomes for children's character development and overall well-being. Children raised by authoritative parents often exhibit the following traits:

- High self-esteem and self-confidence: They feel valued and competent.
- Good social skills: They tend to have positive peer relationships and interact well with others.
- Emotional regulation: They can manage their emotions effectively and have lower levels of anxiety and depression.
- Independence and responsibility: They learn to take responsibility for their actions and make informed choices.
- Academic success: They often perform well in school due to their motivation and sense of responsibility.

Overall, the authoritative parenting style promotes a healthy balance between control and warmth, fostering the development of responsible, well-adjusted, and socially competent individuals.

POSITIVE IMPACT ON CHILD'S SELF-ESTEEM

The authoritative parenting style has a positive and significant impact on a child's self-esteem. This parenting approach, characterized by a combination of warmth, support, and clear expectations, provides a nurturing and empowering environment that contributes to healthy self-esteem development in children. Here are some ways in which authoritative parenting positively affects a child's self-esteem:

1. **Emotional Support:** Authoritative parents are emotionally supportive and responsive to their children's needs. They provide love, affection, and validation, which helps children feel secure and valued. This emotional support forms the foundation for a positive self-image and self-worth.
2. **Clear and Reasonable Expectations:** Authoritative parents set clear and age-appropriate expectations for their children. These expectations are communicated in a manner that is both understandable and attainable for the child. When children meet these expectations, they experience a sense of accomplishment and boost their self-esteem.
3. **Open Communication:** Authoritative parents encourage open and honest communication with their children. They listen to their children's thoughts, feelings, and concerns, which fosters a sense of being heard and understood. This open dialogue allows children to develop a healthy self-concept and self-expression.
4. **Positive Reinforcement:** Authoritative parents use positive reinforcement to acknowledge and reward their children's efforts and achievements. This positive feedback reinforces a child's sense of competence and encourages them to take on new challenges with confidence.
5. **Autonomy and Independence:** Authoritative parents promote autonomy and independence in their children. They allow their children to make choices and decisions within reasonable boundaries, which helps children develop a sense of self-efficacy and self-trust. This, in turn, enhances self-esteem.



6. **Consistency:** Authoritative parents are consistent in their parenting approach, which creates a stable and predictable environment for their children. Consistency in discipline and expectations helps children feel secure and capable, contributing to their self-esteem.
7. **Encouragement of Effort:** Authoritative parents emphasize the value of effort and hard work rather than focusing solely on outcomes or achievements. This teaches children that their worth is not solely tied to their successes but also to their perseverance and determination, boosting their self-esteem.
8. **Respect for Individuality:** Authoritative parents respect their children's individuality and unique qualities. They do not impose rigid standards or comparisons with siblings or peers, allowing each child to develop a positive self-concept based on their own strengths and abilities.

In summary, the authoritative parenting style creates a supportive and nurturing environment that fosters a child's self-esteem. By providing emotional support, setting clear expectations, promoting open communication, and encouraging autonomy and independence, authoritative parents help their children develop a strong and positive self-image. This, in turn, equips children with the confidence and self-assuredness needed to navigate life's challenges and pursue their goals.

AUTHORITARIAN PARENTING STYLE

The authoritarian parenting style is one of the four primary parenting styles identified in psychological research. It is characterized by high levels of control and demand combined with low levels of warmth and responsiveness. Authoritarian parents typically have strict rules and expectations, and they often enforce these rules without much room for negotiation or discussion. While they may have the best intentions for their children's behavior and development, this parenting style can have both positive and negative effects on a child's character development.

Key features of authoritarian parenting include:

1. **High Control:** Authoritarian parents exert a high level of control over their children's lives. They have strict rules and regulations that they expect their children to follow without question.
2. **Low Warmth:** Authoritarian parents may show less warmth and emotional support compared to other parenting styles. They often prioritize discipline and obedience over nurturing and affection.
3. **Clear Expectations:** Authoritarian parents have clear and non-negotiable expectations for their children's behavior. These expectations are often established by the parent, with little input or explanation provided to the child.
4. **Limited Autonomy:** Children raised by authoritarian parents have limited autonomy and independence. They may not have opportunities to make decisions or choices on their own.
5. **Punishment-Oriented Discipline:** Authoritarian parents are more likely to use punitive measures such as scolding, yelling, or physical punishment to enforce rules and correct behavior.

Positive Impact on Child's Character Development:

While the authoritarian parenting style is often associated with negative outcomes, it can have some positive effects on a child's character development, particularly in certain situations. Some potential positive impacts include:

1. **Clear Boundaries:** Authoritarian parents set clear boundaries and expectations, which can help children understand the difference between right and wrong and the consequences of their actions.
2. **Structure and Routine:** The strict nature of authoritarian parenting can provide structure and routine in a child's life, which can be reassuring and help children feel secure.
3. **Responsibility:** Children raised in authoritarian households may learn to take responsibility for their actions and follow rules diligently.

Negative Impact on Child's Character Development:

Despite these potential positives, the authoritarian parenting style is generally associated with several negative impacts on a child's character development:



1. **Low Self-Esteem:** Children of authoritarian parents may develop low self-esteem due to constant criticism and strict control. They may feel inadequate and struggle with self-worth.
2. **Lack of Independence:** Authoritarian parenting can hinder a child's ability to make decisions and think independently, as they are rarely encouraged to do so.
3. **Rebellion:** Some children may respond to authoritarian parenting by rebelling against rules and authority figures, leading to conflict and strained parent-child relationships.
4. **Anxiety and Stress:** The fear of punishment and constant pressure to meet high expectations can lead to anxiety and stress in children.
5. **Poor Social Skills:** Authoritarian parenting may limit a child's social development, as they may struggle with interpersonal relationships due to a lack of practice in negotiation and compromise.

In summary, while authoritarian parenting may have some positive impacts on children's character development, such as clear boundaries and structure, it is generally associated with more negative consequences, including low self-esteem, limited independence, rebellion, anxiety, and poor social skills. It is important for parents using this style to be aware of these potential drawbacks and consider alternative parenting approaches that balance discipline with warmth and support.

EFFECTS ON CHILD'S BEHAVIOR AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

The authoritarian parenting style can have significant effects on a child's behavior and emotional well-being, both positive and negative. These effects are largely influenced by the strict and controlling nature of authoritarian parenting. Here's a closer look at how this parenting style impacts a child's behavior and emotional well-being:

Negative Effects on Child's Behavior:

1. **Rebellion and Defiance:** Authoritarian parenting often leads to children feeling oppressed and controlled. As a result, some children may develop a tendency to rebel against parental rules and authority figures. They may engage in oppositional behavior or act out as a way to assert their independence.
2. **Lack of Initiative:** Children raised in authoritarian households may have limited opportunities to make decisions and take initiative. This can hinder their ability to develop problem-solving skills and take ownership of their actions.
3. **Fear of Failure:** Authoritarian parents may have high expectations for their children and impose strict consequences for mistakes. This can create a fear of failure, causing children to avoid risks and challenges to avoid punishment.
4. **Low Self-esteem:** Constant criticism and a lack of emotional support can erode a child's self-esteem. Authoritarian parenting may lead to feelings of inadequacy and self-doubt.
5. **Difficulty in Social Settings:** Due to limited autonomy and limited opportunities for negotiation and compromise, children raised in authoritarian households may struggle with social interactions. They may find it challenging to cooperate with peers and form healthy relationships.

Negative Effects on Child's Emotional Well-being:

1. **Anxiety and Stress:** The strict and punitive nature of authoritarian parenting can lead to heightened levels of anxiety and stress in children. They may constantly fear making mistakes or facing punishment.
2. **Anger and Resentment:** Children subjected to authoritarian parenting may develop feelings of anger and resentment toward their parents. This can strain the parent-child relationship and lead to long-lasting emotional issues.
3. **Emotional Suppression:** Some children may learn to suppress their emotions, as they may feel that expressing feelings openly is discouraged. This emotional suppression can have long-term consequences on emotional well-being.

Positive Effects on Child's Behavior and Emotional Well-being:

It's important to note that the authoritarian parenting style is not devoid of positive effects. In some cases, children raised in authoritarian households may exhibit behaviors such as discipline, respect for authority, and adherence to rules. They may also have a strong sense of structure and routine, which can provide a sense of security.



However, these positive effects are often overshadowed by the negative consequences, particularly in terms of emotional well-being. The fear-based approach to discipline and the lack of emotional support can lead to a host of emotional challenges for children, including anxiety, stress, low self-esteem, and difficulty in managing their emotions.

In summary, the authoritarian parenting style can have both positive and negative effects on a child's behavior and emotional well-being. While it may promote discipline and respect for rules, it often results in negative outcomes such as rebellion, low self-esteem, anxiety, and strained parent-child relationships. It is essential for parents using this style to be aware of these potential drawbacks and consider alternative parenting approaches that balance discipline with emotional support and communication.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the authoritarian parenting style has a significant impact on a child's behavior and emotional well-being. While it can instill discipline and respect for rules, it often comes at a cost. The strict and controlling nature of authoritarian parenting can lead to negative outcomes such as rebellion, low self-esteem, anxiety, and strained parent-child relationships. It is crucial for parents to recognize the potential drawbacks of this parenting style and consider alternative approaches that strike a better balance between discipline and emotional support.

Parenting is a complex journey, and the effects of parenting styles can vary from one child to another. While some children may thrive in an authoritarian environment, many others may suffer from its emotional toll. Therefore, it is essential for parents to be adaptable and responsive to their child's individual needs, fostering an environment that promotes both discipline and emotional well-being. Ultimately, a healthy parenting approach involves open communication, empathy, and a nurturing environment that allows children to develop not only good behavior but also a strong sense of self-esteem and emotional resilience.

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