

Peer Pressure In Relation To Parenting Style: A Qualitative Study

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Abstract

The present study was conducted to study the impact of different parenting styles on peer pressure in adolescents. A semi-structured interview was conducted with a sample of sixty randomly selected adolescents studying various engineering courses in Punjab. The results of the study reveal that parenting style plays a vital role in an adolescent's life. Peer pressure varies in an adolescent's life. Its level depends on the parenting styles they receive. 25% of the adolescents were raised by highly responsive parents, while 20%, 38.33 % and 16.67 % of adolescents were raised by the controlling, both responsive and controlling and neither of both parenting styles respectively. Further, adolescents raised by both responsive and controlling parents take less peer pressure in their daily lives. While adolescents with ignoring and highly controlling parents are very often prone to peer pressure. Adolescents with highly responsive parents become introverts and face low levels of peer pressure but are highly dependent on their parents in their daily lives.

Keywords- Parenting style, Peer pressure and Adolescents.

Introduction

Parents form the first social group in an individual's life. Their day-to-day interaction and the way of raising their child, leaves a long-lasting effect on their personality. Adolescent majorly rely on others for their daily decisions. Their life style depends on others and they often face role confusions. Peers are the people of similar age group that can be classmates, fiends, play mates, etc. Adolescents spend most of their time with their peers. Peers play a major role in shaping the personality of an Individual.

Bednar and Fisher (2003) studied four styles of parenting, named as authoritative, permissive, authoritarian and neglecting parenting style. The researchers found pupils raised in authoritative parenting style discuss their issues with their parents, they prefer consulting their parents over peers. Further, Chakra and Prabha (2004) found that parents build the personality of their ward. Their love, support, emotional bond and understanding develop emotional competencies in them.

Ozabaci (2006) examined the relationship between the emotional intelligence of the parents and the family environment they offer to their children, The study revealed that the parents who are emotionally stable, offer a balanced and constructive family environment to their children.

Martinez, Garcia and Yubero (2007) found that the adolescents raised in authoritative and indulgent parentings styles, shows a higher level of academic and social self esteem in comparison to their counterparts. Doğan and Kazak (2010) conducted a study on 152 adolescents and found that the decision making skills of adolescents is significantly associated to their protectiveness, received from their parents; also, parents play a very significant role in shaping the lives of their children. Tomé, et.al (2012) revealed that parental acceptance, avoidance, love, attitude, negligence significantly influences the emotional intelligence of adolescents.

Abikoye, Sholarin and Adekoya (2014) collected the evidences showing that the teenagers fostered by authoritative parents are very less susceptible to drug abuse. Such, adolescents face very less behavioural problems, and are more autonomous and self-worthy.

Gafoor and Kurukkan (2014) categorized parenting styles into four categories by considering their level of responsiveness and controlling towards their children. The four styles are illustrated in the table 1.

Table 1: Parenting styles by Gafoor and Kurukkan (2014)

Parenting Style	High Control	Low Control
High Responsiveness	Authoritative Parent	Permissive Parent
Low Responsiveness	Authoritarian Parent	Negligent Parent

a) **An authoritative parent** offers both high level of responsiveness and control while raising their children. They give precedence to the requirements of their child. Such parents are very observant, inspiring, encouraging and have firm and offer a consistent amount control over their children.

b) **A permissive parent** offers high responsiveness and low control while raising their children. Such parents are least demanding and exercise negligible regulations on their child.

c) **An authoritarian parent** offers low level of responsiveness and a very high level of control on their children. They demand a firm and strict discipline from their children. They often ignore the requirements and emotions of their children.

d) **A negligent parent** is neither responsiveness nor controlling. Such a parent is always neglecting and often sidestepping the needs and emotions of the children. They often have a very little communication with their children.

Nikoogoftar and Seghatoleslam (2015) conducted a study on a sample of one hundred eighty adolescents and their parents. The results reveal that the adolescents raised by authoritarian fathers are more prone to depression and hopelessness.

Mageau, Bureau, Ranger, Allen, and Soenens (2016) in their study got that the parents who are more inclined to the academic achievements of the ward often ignore their child's perception. They majorly provide demanding and controlling parenting styles to their children. Rehman and Butt (2016) further added that the parents who are affectionate, compliant, sympathetic and supportive, build good and sound relationship with their children. Parents attitude leaves a direct impact on their ward's overall personality. Theiss and Haverfield (2017) found a positive and significant correlation in parental responsiveness and effective management of emotions.

Singh (2018) conducted a statistical analysis to study the impact of peer victimization on the academic achievement and self-concept of adolescents. The results show that with the increase in peer victimization the self-concept and academic achievement of the adolescents decrease and its vice versa.

Fuentes, Jurado, Martin and Linare (2019) examined a data of a sample of 317 adolescents and found that the adolescents raised in positive family environment shows less aggressive behaviour with higher emotional intelligence.

A qualitative survey by Anand and Bhaskar (2019) shows peer pressure palsy a major role in adolescents for their misconduct and faulty behaviours. They, ignore their parents and follow their peers. In order to get acceptance in their peer group or under the pressure of their peers they get

involved in dangerous, risking and snit social illegal activities.

From the above reviews, it is evident that parenting style and peer pressure play a very vital role in an adolescent's life. Therefore, these variables were considered for conducting this study.

Research questions

How different parenting styles are related to the peer pressure in adolescents?

Objective of the study

To study the impact of different parenting styles on peer pressure in adolescents.

Delimitation of the study

The study was delimited to the adolescents studying in first year of various engineering courses in Punjab.

Sample of the study

A sample of 60 adolescents, 30 males and 30 females studying in various engineering courses in Punjab.

Methodology

A qualitative survey using a semi-structured interview schedule was conducted with a randomly selected sample. The adolescents were asked about the parenting styles they are receiving in their daily lives. They were further enquired about the impact of their parenting style on the peer pressure they face. Their responses were carefully recorded and interpreted to draw meaningful conclusions.

Tools

Scale of parenting style by Gafoor and Kurukkan (2014) was used to divide the parenting styles into four categories.

Results and Discussion

Table 2, given below shows the percentage distribution of the parenting styles that adolescents are receiving in their daily lives.

Table 2: showing the percentage of frequency distribution of parenting styles that adolescents are receiving in their daily lives.

Sr. No.	Dimension of Parenting Style	No. of adolescents	Percentage
1.	Responsive Parenting Style	15	25%
2.	Controlling Parenting Style	12	20%
3.	Both Responsive and Controlling Parenting Style	23	38.33%
4.	Neither Responsive and Controlling Parenting Style	10	16.67%
	Total	60	100%

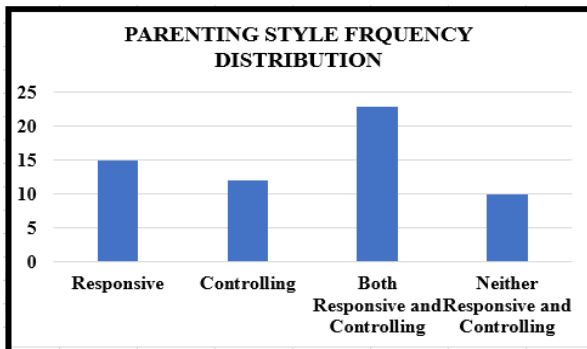


Fig 1: Graph showing the frequency distribution of parenting styles that adolescents are receiving in their daily lives.

The analysis on the basis of the responses received is as under:

Table 2 and figure 1 shows that 25% of the adolescents were raised by highly responsive parents, 20% by highly controlling parents, 38.33% by both responsive and controlling parents; and 16.67% by the parents who are neither responsive nor controlling.

a) Responsive parenting style

The parents offering a responsive style of nurturing are often overprotective, very careful and afraid of their child's loss. Such adolescents spend most of their time at home with their parents. Parents usually accompany them in very outings like shopping and parties and even participate in their studies. They give unconditionally positive regards to their ward. Such, adolescents get cut off from their peers and friends. Resulting introverted personalities. Their lives are highly influenced by their parents. These adolescents feel helpless and aimless in the absence of their parents. They rely on their parents for every small and big decision in their daily lives. The involvement of peers is very less in such adolescents.

b) Controlling parenting style

Parents with a highly demanding and controlling

style of nurturing lay very strict discipline and rules, on their wards. These pupils often hide their feelings, emotions, secrets and daily experiences from their parents. Their lives are influenced by their peers and friends. They often make decisions and do deeds under the pressure and influence of their peers and friends. Adolescents get involved in many antisocial and illegal activities. They often get separated from their parents either for studies or for occupation. This separation from parents often increases peer pressure in them.

c) Both responsive and controlling parenting style

Adolescents receiving both responsive and controlling parenting styles are very optimistic, positive and constructive in their lives. They get high love and affection from their parents. They even get a considerable amount of control from their parents. This combination of both responsiveness and control makes them good decision-makers. They rely both on their parents and peers to satisfy the needs of their daily lives. They seek advice, guidance and knowledge from their peers and parents. Such adolescents are very less prone to peer pressure because they seek advice from their parents too.

d) Neither responsive nor controlling parenting style

Such students are receiving ignoring parenting styles. They often rely on their friends and peers for emotional, social, and physical needs. Parents offer them such a style of parenting due to many reasons, like when both parents are working- they devote significantly less time to their ward, the death of either parent increases the responsibility of the other partner to carry the house, extra marital affairs, divorce or separation, etc. In such situations, children often feel ignored. They find their missing love and affection outside their homes, peers, romantic relations, friends, etc. They mostly spend their leisure and constructive ties with their peers. They go to parties, outings, shopping, studies, etc with their peers. This increases their dependence on their peers and friends. Hence, peers play a major role in the life of adolescents, who receive ignoring parenting styles from their parents.

Conclusion

From the above discussion, it is conclusive that parenting style plays a vital role in an adolescent's life. Different parenting styles have a decrement impact. Peer pressure varies in an adolescent's life. Its level depends on the parenting styles they

receive. The adolescents receiving high responsiveness and control from their parents take less pressure from their peers in their daily lives. While adolescents with ignoring parents mainly rely on their peers and have tremendous peer pressure. Adolescents raised by highly responsive parents make their wards dependent on them. They face less peer pressure but become introverts and highly dependent on their parents. Adolescents nurtured by highly controlling parents are afraid of their parents, want to get rid of their excessive control and are more prone to peer pressure.

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