

Influence of Parenting Styles on Family Relationships

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Abstract

Today with the radical changes in the pattern of family life that have been taking place since the term of the present study. Changes in the pattern of family life inevitably bring changes in the relationship of different family members. The rapid rate of America means that today's children have many experiences which their parents never had and are often unable or unwilling to understand. Young parents, as a rule, understand their children better than older parents because the smaller the age gap between parent and child, the less change there will have seen in cultural values and pattern of living.

Parenting styles influence the way parents treat their children and their treatment of the children, in turn, influence their children's attitudes toward them and the way they behave, fundamentally, therefore, the parent-child relationship is dependent on the parent's attitude. If parental styles are favorable, the relationship of parent and children will be for better than when parental styles are unfavorable. Parental attitude has strong impact not only on family relationship but also on the attitudes and behavior of children. Most of those who become successful as they grow older come from homes where parental attitudes toward them were favorable and where a wholesome relationship existed between them and their parents. Such a relationship will produce happy, friendly children who are appealing to others relatively free from anxieties and constructive, interdependent members of the group.

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Introduction

Parenting or child rearing is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Parenting refers to the aspects of raising a child aside from the biological relationship.

Parental attitudes or styles influence the way parents treat their children and their treatment of the children, in turn, influences their children's attitudes toward them and the way they behave. Fundamentally, therefore, the parent-child relationship is dependent on the parent's attitudes.

If parental attitudes are favorable, the relationship of parents and children will be far better than when parental attitudes are unfavorable. Many cases of maladjustment in children as well as in adults can be traced to unfavorable early parent-child relationships which developed because parental attitudes were actually unfavorable.

The importance of parental attitudes on family relationships comes from the fact that once formed, they tend to be persistent. If these attitudes are favorable, all to the good. But, if they are unfavorable, they will tend to persist, even when in a cloaked form, and affect the relationships the parents have with their children even into the adult years.

Sources of Parental Attitudes

Like all attitudes, the attitudes of parent toward their children are a product of learning. Many factors help to determine what attitudes will be learned, the most of these are as follows:

First, the "dream child" concept, formed before a child's birth, which is highly romanticized and based on what parents would like their child to be.

Second, early experiences with children color parental attitudes toward their own children.

Third, cultural values about the best way to treat children, whether in an authoritarian, democratic, or permissive way, will influence parent's attitudes toward the treatment of their own children.

Fourth, parents who enjoy the parent's roles and are happy and well-adjusted to marriage, reflect their favorable attitudes in their attitudes toward their children.

Fifth, when parents feel adequate for the parental role, their attitudes toward their children and their children's behavior are far more favorable than when they feel inadequate and unsure of how to bring up their children.

Sixth, parents who are satisfied with the sex, number, and characteristics of their children have more favorable attitudes than parents who are dissatisfied.

Seventh, the ability and willingness to adjust to a family centered pattern of living after years of enjoying an ego-centered pattern will determine how favorable parental attitudes are toward the children who have made this shift in role essential.

Eighth, if parent's reason for having a child was to hold together a faltering marriage and if this did not work, the attitude toward the child will be far less favorable than if parents wanted to child add to the satisfaction of their marriage.

Ninth, how children react to parents influences the parent's attitudes toward them. If children show affection for and dependence on their parents, parents react to them very differently than they do when their children are independent and more attached to outsiders to them.

A parenting style is the overall emotional climate in the home. Developmental psychologist Diana Baurmind identified three main parenting styles in early child development: authoritative, authoritarian and permissive. Three parenting styles were later expanded to four including an uninvolved style. These four styles of parenting involve combinations of acceptance and responsiveness on the one hand and demand and control on the other.

Typical Parenting Styles

Parenting styles affect children's traits such as achievement, independence, curiosity, self-reliance, self-control and friendliness. There are some parental attitudes-

Authoritarian

Authoritarian parenting style emphasizes obedience above all else. Sensitivity to the individual child or circumstances is not part of the authoritarian approach. Authoritarian parents aim to control children's behavior through constant direction and swift consequences. According to Dr.Gewen Dewar of parenting science.com, children raised in this style are expected to obey parents regardless of the situation, and negotiation and discussion are not tolerated. This style is also characterized by rigid adherence to rules regardless of whether those expectations are realistic. Dewar says children raised in this style tend to rely on authority figures to make discussions for them, and they also have higher rates of depression, anxiety and poor self-esteem.

Authoritative

Authoritative parental style emphasizes warmth and responsiveness to children's need, but parents also maintain high behavioral expectations. According to Dr.Anita Gurian of the NYU child

development study center, parents who rise, their children in this style set limits and allow natural consequences as a means of modifying behavior. They are sensitive to their child's point of view and temperament, and they may adjust consequences or expectations accordingly. Parents also explain why certain rules are important rather than citing their authority as the reason why children should obey. According to Dewar, Gurian and most peer reviewed psychology publications, authoritative parenting is considered the 'gold standard' and typically produces independent, confident children who are well adjusted creative and cooperative.

Permissive

Permissive or indulgent parenting style involves lots of love, support, and leniencies behavior is not as important as it is in authoritarian and authoritative child rearing. According to Dewar, children raised in this style tend to have very high self-esteem, but they are also less achievement- oriented and more likely to encounter problems with drugs and alcohol. s behavior is not as important as it is in authoritarian and authoritative child rearing. According to Dewar, children raised in this style tend to have very high self-esteem, but they are also less achievement- oriented and more likely to encounter problems with drugs and alcohol. , but parents have few expectations and make few demands of the child. Limits and rules are poorly enforced and children are given significant freedom to do as they like. Parents don't correct poor behavior through discipline or instruction, and they frequently indulge the child's demands regardless of behavior, Gurian says, maintaining control over the child's behavior is not as important as it is in authoritarian and authoritative child rearing. According to Dewar, children raised in this style tend to have very high self-esteem, but they are also less achievement- oriented and more likely to encounter problems with drugs and alcohol.

Uninvolved

Uninvolved parenting styles are most harmful, Gurian says. Not only is parental warmth and responsiveness absent but few expectations or demands are placed on the child. Children learn not to rely on parents for everything; in extreme case, this can include basic need such as food and clean clothing. Parents remain unresponsive to their children, showing little to no affection or encouragement. The lack of limits also means children receive no guidance or examples of appropriate behavior. According to Dewar, such children are most likely to have poor self-esteem and lack the ability to cooperate. Most juvenile offenders were raised in this style of parenting, Dewar says.

Effect of Parental Attitudes on Family Relationships

Parental attitudes have a strong impact not only on family relationships but also on the attitudes and behavior of children. Most of those who become successful as they grow older come from homes were parental attitudes toward them were favorable and where a wholesome relationship existed between them their parents. Such a relationship will produce happy, friendly children who are appealing to others,

relatively free from anxieties, and constructive, interdependent members of the group.

Poorly adjusted children, by contrast, are usually the product of unfavorable parent- child relationship. Children who are deprived of attention and affection from parents are hungry for affection; they are afraid of being left out. Furthermore, they are over willing to please and to do things for others. All this is a form of compensation and an attempt to buy affection at any cost.

Influence of Child Training Methods on Family Relationships

Whether, parents use authoritarian, permissive or democratic child training methods will depend partly on their own upbringing and partly on what they have found, from personal experience of their friends, will produce the results they desire in their own children.

The parent child relationship is also greatly influenced by the way children perceive the training they receive and the interpretation they place on the parent motivation for punishment. The more authoritarian the child training, the more resentful the child and the more likely the child is to be defiant and will fully disobedient. Defiant behavior contributes heavily to the characteristics deterioration of parent child relationship as the child grows older.

If children feel that their parents do not agree on the proper method of training or disciplining, they begin to lose respect for their parents. If the mother is blamed by the father for not bringing up the children properly, children have less respect for the mother, but may also resent the father's criticism of mother.

Although sibling relationships are often strained, siblings generally rally to the defense of a sibling who they feel has been unfairly treated, and they put up a united front against the offending parent. This, too, threatens good family relationships.

Conclusion

The effects of parenting styles are not limited to the parent's relationships with their children; they affect sibling relationships and kind of relationship the child has with grandparents and other relatives. These, likewise, affect family relationship.

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