

Parenting Styles and its Effect on Prosocial Behavior of Adolescents

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Abstract

Helping others is always counted under the act of kindness. There are people who go out of the way to help others. Is helping behavior is runs in the families? Does parenting inculcate prosocialness in children? To keep this thing in mind, this study aimed to review the effect of parenting styles on pro social behavior. A sample of 120 student (comprising of 60 male students and 60 female) from Lovely Professional University were taken respectively. Data collection was done by using two standardized scales, parenting styles scale developed by Dr. Madhu Gupta and Dimple Mehtani to measure the four different parenting styles i.e. Democratic, Autocratic, Permissive and Uninvolved parenting style. Prosocialness scale developed by G.V. Caprara, P. Steca, A. Zelli and C. Capanna was used. Data was analyzed using t-test, correlation and regression. The findings of this study revealed that there is no significant gender difference in relation to prosocial behavior and in case of relationship, only democratic and permissive parenting styles are significantly correlated with Prosocial and rest two are not. And parenting styles predicts 28% of prosocial behavior according to this study result.

Key words: Parenting Styles, Prosocial Behavior, Adolescents

Introduction

Humans are considered as a social being and we cannot live without social contact. The most important social support we have is our family. And if we talk about specifically, it is our parents – mother and father. Children belong to their parents. Children either kids or grownup adults are the mostly are the carbon copies of their parents. This is not because of the genes only, it is also related to how they are dealing with us and how we are learning directly or indirectly from them. In psychology, from the very beginning special focus was given to the parenting. Like Sigmund Freud, Erikson, Adler etc emphasized on the effect of parenting on the personality development of their children. It is the parents who imbibe either good values like sharing their things with others, helping others, adjusting with the demands, giving respect to elders etc and the bad values like cheating, lying, stealing, jealousy, aggression etc in their children. Padilla-Walker, L. M., Nielson, M. G., & Day, R. D. (2016) analyzed the parental warmth on the verbal hostility of adolescent's and pro social behavior toward

different targets. The study comprised of 500 young people and their parents. The results revealed that mother warmth was more related with pro social conduct for family and father's warmth was related to pro social conduct toward companions. Another study showed that there is a positive connection between youngsters not having the option to take point of view of others (intellectual sympathy) and father's conflicting disposition by Agnieszka Lasota (2018).

Carlo, McGinley, Hayes, Batenhorst and Wilkinson (2007) did study to find out the relations among different styles of parenting, compassion, and pro social practices in youths. The sample were 233 young people from secondary schools of Midwestern district. The study discovered that pro social behavior was fundamentally connected with parenting practices. Belay, A. (2018) conducted study to analyze the parenting style, pro social conduct and student's presentation in junior school. Study results revealed that child rearing styles do have fundamentally higher contribution in their youngsters' school execution and also effect pro social conduct of youths.

Chien-Ti Lee, Laura M. Padilla-Walker (2016) focus on the study to understand the influence of parenting and the influence of peer group on prosocial of adolescents and on the outcome of substance use. Sample of 500 was taken. According to the results there is association between parental warmth and self-regulation and also associated with pro social.

Altay, Fatma Basak; Gure, Aysen (2012) did study to examine the relationship of social ability and prosocial practices of boys and girls with parenting styles of mom's recognition. The study discovered that as far as both mother and educator evaluations of prosocial practices, girls in general show more prosocial practices than boys. The kids whose moms indicating authoritative parenting style exhibit more prosocial practices than the kids whose moms exhibit permissive parenting styles.

Mahmutogullari (2016) examine the link between prosocial parenting goals and adolescent prosocial behavior and whether parental child-rearing behaviors (warmth, autonomy granting and the use of punishment) mediate this association. The study was a longitudinal study whereby 484 families were followed in 1990 and in 1995. Results revealed that no direct link between prosocial parenting goals and the prosocial behavior of adolescents. For fathers the use of punishment and warmth was positively related to adolescents' prosocial behavior while for mothers only warmth was positively related. This study shows that mothers who use warmth and fathers who use punishment and warmth in their child-rearing behaviors have adolescents who report higher levels of prosocial behavior.

Carlo, Mestre, Samper, Tur, & Armenta (2011) examined through longitudinal study the relations among measurements of parenting styles, compassion, prosocial, moral thinking, and prosocial practices. Members comprised of 372 young men and 358 young ladies. Results demonstrated that parental warmth, compassion, and prosocial moral thinking were prescient of prosocial practices.

The present study focus on the effect of parenting on prosocial behavior and to find out any gender differences in relation to helping behavior. And also the prediction value to parenting styles on pro social behavior. For this following objectives and hypotheses were framed.

Objectives

1. To ascertain the role of gender in prosocial behavior.
2. To find out the relationship between parenting styles and prosocial behavior of adolescents.
3. To find out parenting styles as predictor of prosocial behavior.

Hypotheses:

1. There is no role of gender on prosocial behavior of adolescents.
2. There is no correlation between parenting styles and prosocial behavior of adolescents.
3. Parenting styles will not predict the prosocial behavior.

Research design

The current study employed a descriptive research method. Convenient sampling method was used to select 120 students (60 males and 60 females). This sample was taken from Lovely Professional University.

Tools

Prosocialness scale for adults by G.V. Caprara, P. Steca, A. Zelli and C. Capanna consists of 16 items. The items reflect practices and emotions that can be followed back to one of four sorts of activities namely sharing, helping, dealing with and feeling emphatic with others and their needs.

Parenting style scale by Dr. Madhu Gupta and Ms. Dimple Mehtani has 44 items. This scale measures four different parenting styles i.e. Democratic, Autocratic, Permissive and Uninvolved parenting style.

Following statistical techniques were applied to analyze the data:

1. t-test was applied to compare the mean of two groups i.e., gender
2. Correlation was applied to get the relationship status between parenting styles and prosocial behavior.
3. Regression was applied to get prediction value of parenting styles fro prosocial.

Results and Discussion

The results of the study were analyzed, tabulated and discussed below:

Table 1: The frequency data from table 1 shows that out of 120 respondents, 60 (50%) respondents are males and 60 (50%) respondents are females.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents on the basis of gender		
Gender	Frequency	Percent
Males	60	50.0
Females	60	50.0
Total	120	100.0

The following figure also depicts the same.

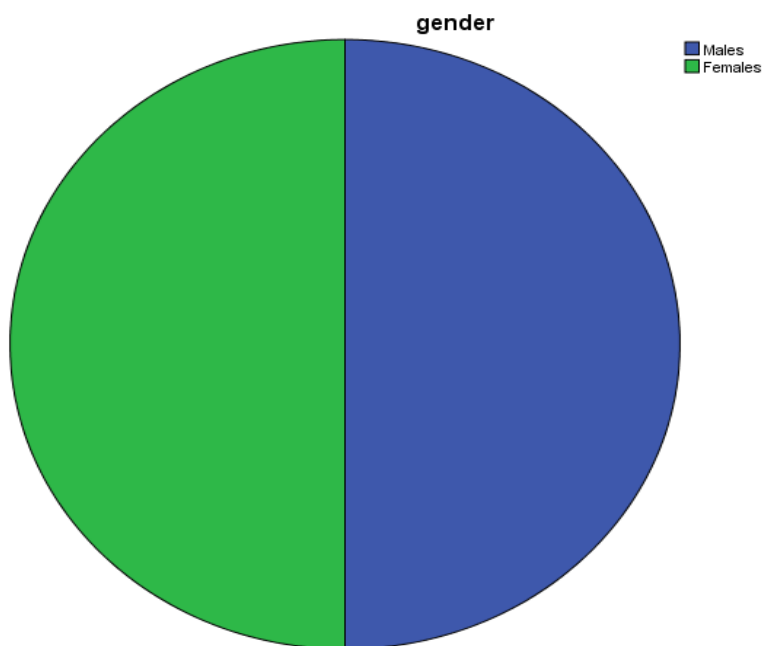


Figure 1: Distribution of respondents on the basis of gender

Table 2 Showing comparison between gender and Pro social behavior

Prosocial behavior	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	df	t-value
	Male	60	62.92	7.108	118	1.865
	Female	60	60.13	9.120		

It is evident from the table 2 that the mean score of 60 males and 60 females, for prosocial behavior found to be 62.92 and 60.13, respectively. The mean value of males and females related to prosocial behavior is almost same, so there is no significant gender difference related to prosocial behavior. Here we accept the hypothesis 1 that is there is no significant difference.

Table 3 Showing the relationship between parenting styles and prosocial behavior

	democratic	autocratic	Permissive	uninvolved	prosocial
Democratic	1	-.089	.165	-.539**	.187*
Autocratic		1	-.297**	.195*	-.154
permissive			1	.102	.322**
uninvolved				1	-.060
Prosocial					1

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
 * . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

From above table, it is clear that there is a significant relationship between democratic parenting style and prosocial behavior. Also, there is a significant relationship between permissive parenting style and prosocial

behavior. The other two parenting styles i.e., autocratic and uninvolved shows no significant relationship between prosocial behavior. Hence our hypothesis 2 is partially accepted.

Table 4 Showing the percentage of prosocial behavior predicted by parenting styles.									
C variable	Prediction variable	B	Std. error	Beta	R	R square	Adjusted R square	t	Sig.
Prosocial behavior	Parenting styles	.119	.064	.168	.168	.028	.020	1.85	.067

- a. Dependent Variable: prosocial behavior
- b. Independent Variable: parenting style
- c. This table shows that parenting styles predicts 28% of prosocial behavior.

The present study concludes that out of 4 styles of parenting i.e., Democratic, Authoritative, Permissive and Uninvolved, only two parenting styles democratic and permissive play an important role in inculcating prosocial behavior in adolescents. Both the styles are positively correlated with prosocialness. In case of gender there is no significant difference in males and females related to their pro social behavior. Here we conclude that both genders are showing almost equal level of pro social behavior as they are getting same kind of freedom, love, care from the parents without any discrimination. At the end we conclude that parenting styles is an important factor to imbibe the pro social behavior in adolescents as this factor predicts 28% of pro social behavior.

Limitations

The present study focused on only parenting styles, there could be other important factors which play a significant role in prosocial behavior. Further studies can explore those factors like number of siblings, parental education level, types of family etc.

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