



A study of the Relationship between Parenting Styles and Tendency to Immoral Media in Adolescents of Isfahan

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ABSTRACT: Parenting styles as one of the basic duties of parents play a key role in the later periods of children's lives. The current research aimed at determining the relationship between parenting styles and tendency to immoral media by adolescents. To this end, 200 teenager students were selected by multi-stage random cluster sampling from high schools in Isfahan, Iran, to participate in the research. The applied instruments included Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ) and tendency to immoral media questionnaires. To analyse the research data statistically, regression analysis was used. The findings indicated that the authoritarian and neglectful parenting styles are meaningfully predictors of the tendency to immoral media by adolescents. Based on the results it was shown that parenting styles can predict the adolescents' tendency to immoral media.

Key Words: Parenting Styles, Tendency to Immoral Media, Adolescents

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INTRODUCTION

The issue of the relationship between parents and children has attracted the attention of educating and training specialists and experts for years. Family is the most fundamental institution of socializing children especially in the early critical years of life. Family, under proper conditions, prepares children to recognize their potential abilities and undertake useful roles in society, as mature individuals [1]. Family is the first establishment which creates the relationship between child and his/her surrounding. A child acquires the earliest conceptions about world, grows mentally and physically, learns speaking styles and basic behavioral norms and finally his/her views, morality, and spirituals will be formed and socialized in a sense [2].

Family is the center of maintaining norms, traditions, social and moral values; it is also a firm foundation of social connections, kinship and focal relationship for expressing and emerging human feeling as well as a place for social training of child. A child acquires the first conceptions about the world, ways of speaking, and the fundamental norms; he forms attitudes, morality and spirituals and turns social in a sense [2]. Each family applies a special way titled under parenting styles in training its children that is affected by different factors including cultural, social, political, and economical [3].

Contemporary researches on parenting styles have stemmed from Baumrind's studies on children and their families; he emphasizes on mixing different parenting styles with a typological approach. Difference in combining the main elements of parenting styles (such as being warm, involved, mature demands, supervision and guardianship) will make changes in how children, affected by parents, respond [4].

Parenting styles have been categorized differently. Generally, several researchers have planned four basic parenting styles based on two major criteria that is parental warmth (parental responsiveness) and parental control (parental demandingness) [5, 6]. In authoritarian parenting styles, parents exert high levels of control and low levels of responsiveness. They expect their children to obey and to prevent rebelliousness they often punish their children. In permissive parenting styles parents are so responsive, contrary to the authoritarian ones, permit too much autonomy and do not force them to behave maturely [7]. Neglectful parenting styles [6], includes low levels of responsiveness and seriousness by parents who reject or neglect their children [8]. In authoritative parenting style [7], parents have a high level of control and responsiveness and their children are social, significantly independent, and show few behavioral problems.

Numerous studies have been done on parenting styles, its psychological consequences and mental health including educational progress[9], psychological-social performance[10], self-concept[11], self-esteem [12], using drugs[13], morality [14], and moral reasoning [15,16].

On the other hand, the expansion of modern technologies in electronic and computer field in the last decades have created different kinds of electronic and computer programs such as internet, cellphone, satellite

and computer games all around the world. In today's mechanical and urban life that parents do not have adequate time to spend with their children. On the other hand, parents choose the easiest way for entertaining their children, that is, they provide their children with tools such as cellphone, lap top, PC and internet; so that they will be entertained by them in their rooms. Whereas, the child is only physically safe at home, practically, h/she steps at an indeed larger world than his/her surrounding by these means, especially internet, and confronts with things many parents are unaware of.

This is undeniable that these changes and progressions have made human's life much easier, but on the other hand, we cannot be neglectful of the detriments originated from these modern technologies. Today's children are not similar to the past generations' children who got entertained merely by playing with their peers and watching television cartoons. Nearly all these children and adolescents are of, all or some, these technologies [17].

The expansion of communications, cyberspaces, etc. similar to other kinds of changes and progressions has caused various positive and negative effects and consequences in community and lives of users of these atmospheres. The most positive consequence must be facilitating and precipitating communications and exchanging information and the most negative ones are putting people's privacy at risk, their social isolation and disintegration of family fundamental. In the same vein, the tendency of children especially adolescents and the young, as a (bitter) social fact, to immoral and vulgar media has to be scrutinized.

Concerning that parenting styles signify parents' endeavors for rearing children and turning them into qualified adults (defining qualification is formed not only by vast cultural criteria but also by family condition) and regarding the results of the previous researches which have shown parenting styles as well as deficiencies in training, spiritual and moral field of children are important and influential anticipating factors in adolescents' tendency to crime, moral ,and behavioral issues[18,19,20], the present study has investigated the relationship between parenting styles and adolescents' tendency to immoral media.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The current study methodology is correlational descriptive. The variables are parenting styles predictors and the criteria of adolescents' tendency to immoral media .

Statistical population and sample: The statistical population of the study were all high school students studying in Isfahan during 2012-2013.As for the aim of this research, random sample clustering was used in a way that out of six fold districts of education and training of two boys' high school and two girls' high school and totally 24 schools were selected and 10 first grade class, second grade class, third grade class and fourth grade class were randomly chosen. Finally, 50 students from each level and totally 200 students (100 girls and 100 boys) were chosen by simple random sampling.

The participation of students in the sample group required entrance and lack of exit criteria. Entrance criteria included the followings:

1 .High school students

2 .Thorough satisfaction of students and parents for participating in the research

Exit criteria were:

Involuntary participation of students and parents in research

Research Instruments: Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ); Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ) was designed by Robinson, Mandleco, Olsen and Hart in 2001 [21].This questionnaire consists of 32 items that one parenting style and hence parenting style questionnaire evaluates three parenting styles including, authoritative, neglectful and authoritarian. George [22], reported the reliability for this questionnaire through retest to be in mothers' group 0.61 for neglectful style, 0.83 for authoritarian style and 0.90 for authoritative style. In addition, he showed, by discriminant validity, that mother's authoritarian style has an inverse relationship with neglectful style (-0.52).

The questionnaire of adolescents' tendency to immoral media; The questionnaire of adolescents' tendency to immoral media is a researcher made questionnaire consisting of 20 questions with respect to the tendency to immoral media such as satellite, internet websites, illegal books and video clips. This questionnaire has been made and adjusted according to sociology and psychology experts and professors' views. Scoring the questionnaire is based on Likert scale. The test taker should determine the answer among 5 scales (strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree) that each answer respectively receives 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 score. Maximum score from this questionnaire is 100; upper scores reveal more tendencies to immoral media. To ensure the reliability and validity of the questionnaire, it was first piloted; Cronbach's alpha was 0.83 for the sample of 50 participants and it was also run for research population which was 0.81.

RESULTS

Descriptive results concerning research variables are presented in table 1. According to table 1, the average and standard deviation for neglectful style are 27.66 and 9.45, for authoritative style are 34.39 and 10.13, for authoritarian style are 27.02 and 16.75, and for adolescents' tendency to immoral media are 46.11 and 16.75.In

order to examine the parenting styles and tendency to immoral media relationship between, the results of Pearson correlation coefficient has been reported in table 2.

Table1. Average and SD of research variables

Variable	Number	Average	Standard deviation
Parenting styles	Neglectful	200	27.66
	authoritative	200	39.34
	authoritarian	200	27.02
Adolescents' tendency to immoral media	200	46.11	16.75

Table2.research variables' correlation matrices

Variable	1	2	3	4
Neglected parenting style	1			
Authoritative parenting style	**-.0823	1		
Authoritarian parenting style	*0.822	**-.0674	1	
Children's tendency to immoral media	**0.758	**-.0803	**0.586	1

**p≤0.01

Following table 2, the highest correlation coefficient between parenting styles and tendency to immoral media belongs to authoritative style (-0.803) and the lowest correlation coefficient belongs to authoritarian style (0.586).

Table 3.Concurrent regression summary to predict tendency to immoral media based on parenting styles

Variable	Beta	Sig	R	R ²	F	sig
Neglectful parenting style	0.39	0.001				
Authoritative parenting style	-0.555	0.001	0.823	0.678	137.66	0.001
Authoritarian parenting style	0.108	0.131				

The results of table 3 indicate that there is a multiple correlation (0.82) between tendency to immoral media and parenting style. That is to say 0.67 of tendency to immoral media is predicted by parenting style. It must be added that there is a correlation of -0.55 between tendency to immoral media and authoritative parenting style and a correlation of 0.39 between neglectful parenting style and tendency to immoral media. Authoritarian styles did not have a significant effect on predicting the tendency to immoral media. Also, the results of step by step regression analysis signified that authoritarian style has entered the regression equation in the first step.

In this vein, the amount of F was estimated to be 360.22 that is meaningful in p<0.0001 level. Besides, based on R-squared (coefficient of determination) it was recognized that authoritative parenting style predicts 0.64 of variance of tendency to immoral media. In the next step neglectful style has been analyzed which is meaningfully 0.0001. In this stage authoritative and neglectful style predict %67 of the variance of tendency to immoral media.

DISCUSSION

This study aimed to examine the relationship between parenting style and adolescents' tendency to immoral media. The findings signified that there is a multiple correlation of 0.82 between tendency to immoral media and parenting style. In other words 0.67 percent of tendency to immoral media is predicted by parenting styles. In addition, the results showed that there is a correlation (-0.55) between tendency to immoral media and authoritative style and neglectful parenting style (0.39). Authoritarian styles did not have meaningful share in predicting tendency to immoral media. The findings of this study showed that neglectful and permissive styles have meaningful impact on predicting tendency to immoral media. Thus, this parenting style provides the ground for the emergence of pathology. Besides, authoritative parenting style is remarkably significant in predicting tendency to immoral media.

The current findings confirm [23], research indirectly, stating that there is a positive relationship between disciplinary styles of low control and high acceptance and internalizing moral criteria especially in people of 18 and 19 years of age. Accordingly, the more parents are responsive to their children's spiritual and moral needs and create an intimate and authoritative relationship with their children, the more possible is directing their behavior and the fewer tendencies will be toward immorality and when authoritarian parenting style dominates home and parents-children relationship is cold, directing children's behavior will be reduced.

To explain these findings it should be said that an adolescent needs the support of his/her family to achieve moral principles and values. Family atmosphere and the type of interaction between parents and the adolescent have a notable effect on personality formation. Consequently, family plays an important role in the emergence or prevention of pathological and immoral behaviors in adolescents.

As a result, preparing a person for living out of family environment is one of the biggest parents' social duties, and family relationships' quality leaves a deep and enduring effect on moral and psychological development of people. A family, who is of the necessary ability and facilities to perform its parenting duties successfully and desirably, creates the feeling of goal, direction, progress, moral value in each of its members.

To sum up, it could be declared that no pathological and useful use of electronic media needs training, mental and social maturity and if the person, in childhood, is of trustworthy and qualified parents who have addressed his/her psychological needs well and strengthened religious and moral foundations appropriately with scientific models, his/her resistance will be increased confronting these pathological lines and can analyze upcoming phenomena and overcome the challenges by revision and reflection.

Problems such as the place of performing the research, lack of generalizability of the study results in other educational grades and using researcher made test of tendency to immoral media have restricted the generalizability of this study; hence, paying attention to these options will contribute to the reliability of the results for future researches.

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