The effects of authoritative parenting on an adolescent’s success in a junior college honor’s program

by

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Abstract

The presented study examines authoritative parenting and its associations with an adolescent's success. There is a significant gap in the knowledge in regard to the impact of parental tough love on adolescents. It is important to determine the answer to the problem because it could help fill the significant gap in the knowledge. This research will help determine if an authoritative parenting style is effective in making an adolescent successful. It can help a parent decide how to or not to raise their children. The evidence found in this study can also be used to help inform parents of the positive and negative outcomes of authoritative parenting and whether it is the best parenting style to use. In addition, it could also be used to help expand on future studies including how members of the extended family’s parental approach affect an adolescent's success. Findings from the study suggest how successful the theory of "parental tough love" is. I conducted this study to examine how authoritative parenting or parental tough love impacts adolescents. This study was done within the honors program at Tyler Junior College. I conducted a qualitative survey questionnaire. The survey was sent through email by the head of the honors department. No specific ethnicity, race, age, or gender was used. This study accomplished to determine the relationship between an authoritative parenting style and success related to academic performance, social and emotional outcomes, and performance outcomes in school activities. Based on this research I concluded that parental tough love or an authoritative parenting style nurtures successful adolescents. This study shows that kids raised by authoritative parents are more likely to become independent, self-reliant, socially accepted, academically successful, and well-behaved. They are less likely to report depression and anxiety, and less likely to engage in antisocial behavior. This style also results in kids who have better mental health overall.
Introduction

In today’s world there are many types of parenting styles. Each parenting style has different outcomes. Parenting styles have a huge impact on how children develop into adults and their future success. A clinical and developmental psychologist defines an authoritative parenting style as a unique combination of high control and positive encouragements (Baumrind, 1966). This parenting style involves high levels of parental warmth and responsiveness paired with high levels of parental demandingness and control. Authoritative parents encourage their children to be independent, but also set limits and boundaries. Discipline is applied, but in a supportive, non-punitive way. Authoritative parenting is used to describe parental “tough love” because these two approaches to parenting have the same definitions. An authoritative parenting style is characterized by either low or high of all or some of the dimensions of parenting, which are disciplinary strategies, warmth and nurturance, communication styles and expectations of maturity and control. These factors tend to affect a child's success psychologically, socially, emotionally, and academically. What impact does parental tough love have on adolescents? Does it positively or negatively affect a child's success? Is this parenting style an effective way to raise a child?

Primary Research Question

Does adopting an authoritative parenting style positively or negatively affect a child's success?

Background

All parents face certain big questions when it comes to raising, teaching, and disciplining their children. Many parents ask what parenting style is most effective in raising a successful young adult. This research can inform parents of the positive and negative outcomes of authoritative parenting and whether it is the best parenting style to use on their children. The way one interacts
with their child has an impact on how they get on in life. A parenting style will affect a child’s behavior, the way they process their feelings, how they do at school, and even how they develop physically. In addition to the effect on the children, the choice of parenting style can also affect overall happiness as a family.

**Method**

A retrospective literature review was used to conduct this study. Publications in this study include systematic reviews, individual research studies, and critically appraised research studies. Databases used in this study include Academic Search Premier, CINAHL, SAGE Journals, JSTOR, and EBSCO. Many topics and terms used include authoritative, outcomes, tough love, academic success, benefits, support, parenting styles, adolescents, and educational development. This study was done within the honors program at Tyler Junior College. I conducted a qualitative survey questionnaire through Google forms. The questions asked about the students’ academic success, mental health, jobs, involvement, and the parenting style that was used on them. The survey was sent through email by the head of the honors department. No specific ethnicity, race, age, or gender was used.

**Case Study**

Once the survey was sent, a total of 51 students completed the survey. For one of the questions I gave a brief description of an authoritative parent and then asked if they believed their parent(s) fell under this category. Of those 51 students, 38 said they believed they had authoritative parents. I then only focused on the responses given by these 38 students. 90% of them agreed with their parent’s parenting style and 10% did not. 92% said they would not change their parent’s parenting style and 8% said they would. The following question asked if they believed their academic success was due to their parent’s parenting style. 79% said yes.
21% said no. Overall, they had good grade point averages. All 38 students had either been involved in a sport, organization, club, or had a job. I then asked about their mental health and communication skills. The answers varied across the board. Lastly, I asked if they believed their mental health was due to their parent's parenting style. 28 students said yes and 10 students said no.
Review of Literature


Albert Alegre is a professor of East Stroudsburg University, Department of Education and Primary. Alegre’s study reviews the way in which parenting styles and practices predicted children’s emotional intelligence. Alegre conducted a study that reviewed four main dimensions of parenting: parental responsiveness, parental positive demandingness, parental negative demandingness, and parental emotional related coaching. The study showed that children’s higher emotional intelligence is related to parental responsiveness, parental emotion-related coaching, and parental positive demandingness. On the other hand, children’s lower emotional intelligence is related to parental negative demandingness.
Diana Baumrind is a clinical and developmental psychologist known for her research on parenting styles and for her critique of the use of deception in psychological research. Baumrind examined three models of parental control: permissive, authoritarian, and authoritative. Pertinent finding concerning the effects on child behavior of component disciplinary practices is reviewed. Baumrind’s typology formed the foundation for research on parental socialization of children and children’s developmental outcomes. She examined parenting styles in parents of children of preschool age through adolescence. Baumrind examined outcomes in academic achievement, emotion regulation, moral development, deep relations, social skills, substance abuse, and teenage sexuality. Baumrind found authoritative parenting to be associated with better outcomes for children.


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Roy A. Bean's research is affiliated with Brigham Young University. University and the Department of Human Development and Family Science. The authors examined the
relationships between adolescent functioning, parental support, behavioral control, and psychological control in European American and African American adolescents. Hierarchical regression analyses indicated that supportive behaviors of African American mothers toward their adolescent children positively predicted both self-esteem and academic achievement. Psychological control was significantly related to adolescent self-esteem in both the models of paternal parenting and maternal parenting. This study provides support for the methodological value of examining the parenting dimensions independently as opposed to combining them to form parenting styles.


Joey Jo-Yi Fung is an associate professor of psychology at Fuller. Anna S. Lau is a professor of clinical psychology at UCLA. The authors examined 2 forms of parental psychological control and how they related to child behavior problems in 2 cultural groups. A sample of 165 Hong Kong (HK) Chinese and 96 European American (EA) parents completed measures of parental control strategies, parental rejection, and child behavior problems. The use of hostile psychological control (criticism, interference, invalidation) was more strongly associated with the use of relational induction (guilt induction, shaming, reciprocity, social comparison) among EAs compared with HK parents. Psychological control was related to parental rejection across both groups, but it was only independently associated with child behavior problems for EA families. Relational induction, on the other hand, was not associated with child behavior problems.
in either group but was more strongly associated with parental rejection among EAs compared with HK parents.


Fernando Garcia is a professor of Psychological Methods and Design of Research Studies at the University of Valencia, Spain. Enrique Garcia is also a professor at the University of Valencia Spain. The aim of this paper is to establish which parenting style is associated with optimum youth outcomes among adolescents of Spanish families. A sample of 1,416 teenagers from 12 to 17 years of age, of whom 57.2% were females, reported on their parents' child-rearing practices. The teenagers’ parents were classified into one of four groups (authoritative, authoritarian, indulgent, or neglectful). The adolescents were then contrasted on four different outcomes: self-esteem, psychosocial maladjustment, personal competence, and problem behaviors. Results showed that both the indulgent and authoritative parenting styles were associated with better outcomes than authoritarian and neglectful parenting. Overall, our results supported the idea that in Spain the optimum style of parenting is the indulgent one, as adolescents' scores in the four sets of youth outcomes were equal or better than the authoritative style of parenting.

John Jabagechourian is a professor at San Jose State University. The study examines the relations among authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive parenting styles and practices and several academic and behavioral outcomes among fifth grade Latino students. The study found significant positive relations between parental authoritativeness and grades, academic engagement, social competence, self-regulation, and perspective-taking as well as negative relations between authoritativeness and aggression. The author found no relations between authoritarian or permissive parenting styles and child outcomes. The author considers these findings in light of what other researchers have posited about collectivist parenting styles and practices.


Karen Kramer is the assistant professor of the School of Labor and Employment Relations at the University of Illinois. Kramer presents a study related to parental behavioral control an important aspect of parenting style. It mentions that higher parental behavior leads to adolescent's higher academic achievement, lower distress and higher psychological development as compared to low behavioral control. It highlights that the authoritative parenting style is the most favorable child outcome among the different parenting styles.

Dr. Shannon Medermott Panetta is a Psychologist practicing in Clinton Township, MI. The purpose of this study was to extend the current research to examine the relationship between parenting style combinations and adolescent emotional/behavioral outcomes further. Participants were 12- to 18-year-old students in 7th to 11th grade in a rural school district in southeast Michigan. When both parents were authoritative, it was associated with more optimal outcomes in adolescents' personal adjustment than any other parenting style combination. Having one authoritative parent was related to high personal adjustment for girls but higher levels of school maladjustment for boys. Overall, when both parents were permissive and neglectful, these parenting styles were associated with poorer adolescent outcomes.


Lisa Pellerin is a sociology professor at Ball State University. The study provides support for a theory of socialization style by applying Baumrind's typology of parenting to high schools as socializing agents. In the family literature, findings show that the authoritative style produces the best results on child behavioral outcomes, and the indifferent style the worst results. The school climate literature suggests that schools that are both responsive and demanding achieve the best results with students. Using data from the High School Effectiveness Study, the author tested the effect of school style on student disengagement-truancy and dropout. The study's results indicated that school styles produced outcomes similar to parenting styles: authoritative schools have the best results.
and indifferent schools the worst results for disengagement, while authoritarian schools have the worst results for dropout.


Bettina Piko’s research is affiliated with the Department of Behavioral Sciences at the University of Szeged. The goal of this paper was to investigate the role of authoritative parenting style and other family variables in adolescents. The study was carried out in all primary and secondary schools in Mako and the surrounding region in Hungary in the spring of 2010. Self-administered questionnaires contained items of measuring depressive symptoms (CDI) and parental variables beyond sociodemographic. Overall, the data supported a negative association between authoritative parenting style and adolescent mood problems, particularly among girls. Among boys, only mother's responsiveness was a significant predictor. Among girls, father's parenting played a decisive role; not only his responsiveness but also demandingness.


Barbara Radziszewska’s research is affiliated with Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. This study examines whether the relationship between parenting style and adolescent depressive symptoms, smoking, and
academic grades vary according to ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status. Four parenting styles are distinguished, based on patterns of parent-adolescent decision making: autocratic, authoritative, permissive, and unengaged. The sample included 3993 15-year-old White, Hispanic, African-American, and Asian adolescents. Results are generally consistent with previous findings: adolescents with authoritative parents had the best outcomes and those with unengaged parents were least well adjusted, while the permissive and the autocratic styles produced intermediate results. More research is needed to replicate and explain this pattern in terms of ecological factors, cultural norms, and socialization goals and practices.


Klaudia M. Sapieja is affiliated with the University of Alberta. The purpose of the study was to determine whether perceptions of parenting styles differ as a function of adolescent athletes' perfectionist orientations. A total of 194 male youth soccer players completed measures of their perfectionist orientations in sport and of their perceptions of maternal and paternal parenting styles. Scores from the parenting style measure were calculated such that higher scores were reflective of higher parental authoritativeness. Analyses conducted on perfectionism responses produced independent clusters of unhealthy perfectionists, healthy perfectionists, and non-perfectionists. MANOVA results revealed that both healthy- and non-perfectionists had significantly, higher perceptions of
maternal and paternal authoritativeness than unhealthy perfectionists. Results indicate that exposure to heightened authoritative parenting may play a role in developing healthy perfectionist orientations in youth sport.


Beenish Sartaj research is affiliated with the National Institute of psychology at the University of Islamabad. The study aimed at investigating the impact of authoritarian and authoritative parenting in the home, health and emotional adjustment. Relationships of authoritative and authoritarian parenting with home, health and emotional adjustment of adolescents were compared. The sample of the study consisted of 200 college students. They were selected from the different colleges of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, Pakistan. The age range of the sample was 16 to 19 years. Parental Authority Questionnaire and Indian Adaptation of Bell's Adjustment Inventory Scale were used in the study. Correlation and t-test were used to analyze data. Findings showed that adolescents raised by authoritative parents have better home, health and emotional adjustment as compared to adolescents raised by authoritarian parents. Authoritative parents have positive and authoritarian parents have a negative relationship with home, health, and emotional adjustment.

TED. (2016 October 4). How to raise successful kids -- without over-parenting | Julie

Julie Lythcott-Haims is the former Dean of Freshmen at Stanford. She says that by loading kids with high expectations and micromanaging their lives at every turn, parents aren't actually helping. She tells parents to stop defining their children's success via grades and test scores. Instead, she says, they should focus on providing the oldest idea of all: unconditional love. She says that parents spend a lot of time being very concerned about parents who aren't involved enough in their kids' lives, but at the other end of the spectrum there is a lot of harm going on as well. She explains that parents feel that kids can't be successful unless the parent is protecting and preventing at every turn.


Scout O’Donnell is a student at The Masters School. She says that children are raised in many ways. O’Donnell states that parents today are suffocating their kids so much that they aren’t giving them a chance to say they don’t like something. Parents must trust their kids to know their limits and ask for help when they really need it. It seems as though parenting methodology has shifted, so that worrying about every single thing equals responsible parenting. Parents hover over their kids to make sure that they themselves don't get an F in parenting. Parents will never have complete control over their kids. Kids are growing up with no knowledge of how to deal with feelings.

TEDx Talks. (2016, August 15). What is the most important influence on child development? | Tom Weisner | TEDxUCLA [Video file]. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com
Tom Weisner is an emeritus professor of anthropology and psychiatry at UCLA. He studies and teaches about culture and human development. The most important thing is to decide where in the world a child is growing up. All the things that we think of about the child depend on the context in which the child and its family are living. We live in a weird society. Weird stands for Western Educated Industrialized Rich Democratic. Differences in weird societies include the importance of social responsibility and collaborative learning and social intelligence. Another difference includes multiple caretaking of children. Kids are raised by a lot of different people. Care is socially distributed. Children are securely attached, but they are attached to a social setting.


Wang Hongyu is the associate professor and head of the department of sociology at the University of Macau. Wang examines the relationship between parenting styles and adolescents' academic and behavioral outcomes. Based on data collected from eighth-graders in two cities in China, the study found that the majority of Chinese parents adopt optimal parenting styles, such as democratic or authoritative parenting styles. Democratic parenting is the optimal parenting style among urban Chinese boys because sons of democratic mothers have the better academic achievement and engage in fewer delinquent activities than sons raised by other types of mothers, including authoritative mothers. Sons of democratic fathers have better academic achievements than sons of other types of fathers, including authoritative fathers. Conversely, maternal warmth is essential to cultivating academic and behavioral competence among urban Chinese girls.
and paternal warmth is crucial to reducing delinquency among girls. Girls of authoritarian or neglectful parents have lower grades and engage in more delinquent activities than girls of authoritative or democratic parents.

Conclusion

Authoritative parents act as role models and exhibit the same behaviors they expect from their children. Because of this, their kids are more likely to internalize these behaviors and exhibit them as well. Consistent rules and discipline also allow children to know what to expect. The parents tend to exhibit good emotional understanding and control. Their children also learn to manage their emotions and learn to understand others. Authoritative parents also allow children to act independently. This teaches kids that they are capable of accomplishing things on their own, helping to foster strong self-esteem and self-confidence. Based on this research I concluded that parental tough love or an authoritative parenting style nurtures successful adolescents. The study showed that kids raised by authoritative parents are more likely to become independent, self-reliant, socially accepted, academically successful, and well-behaved. They also are likely to have high academic success. They are less likely to report depression and anxiety, and less likely to engage in antisocial behavior. This style also results in kids who have better mental health overall. Overall, the adolescents were content with the way they were raised.