



EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTING STYLES AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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ABSTRACT This study examines the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency, with a focus on the role of authoritarian and authoritative parenting practices. A quantitative research design was employed, with a sample of 60 adolescents (30 delinquent and 30 non-delinquent) participating in the study. The Parenting Style Questionnaire (PSQ) and the Self-Report Delinquency Scale (SRDS) were used to assess parenting styles and delinquent behaviour, respectively. The results showed that authoritarian parenting style was significantly associated with delinquent behaviour, while authoritative parenting style was negatively correlated with delinquency. The findings suggest that parenting styles play a crucial role in shaping adolescent behaviour and that interventions targeting parenting styles may be effective in preventing juvenile delinquency. The study contributes to the understanding of the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency and has implications for parents, educators, and policymakers.

KEYWORDS : Parenting styles, juvenile delinquency, authoritarian, authoritative, adolescent behaviour.

INTRODUCTION

An authoritarian parenting style is characterized by high expectations and demands, but low levels of warmth and responsiveness (Baumrind, 1991). Authoritarian parents tend to be strict, punitive, and less nurturing.^[1] On the other hand, An authoritative parenting style balances high expectations with high levels of warmth and responsiveness (Hart & Risley, 1995). Authoritative parents are supportive, encouraging, and communicative.^[2]

SRDS (Delinquency), The Self-Reported Delinquency Scale (SRDS) measures the frequency of delinquent behaviours, such as stealing, drug use, and violence. Delinquency is defined as "law-violating behaviour" (Naqvi & Kamal, 2008).^[3] Other researchers describe delinquency as "deviant acts" that would be considered criminal if committed by an adult (Thornberry & Krohn, 2000).^[4]

Juvenile delinquency is a complex issue that affects individuals, families, and communities worldwide. The causes of juvenile delinquency are varied and can be attributed to a range of factors, including family dynamics, peer influence, and socioeconomic conditions.^[5] One factor that has been consistently linked to juvenile delinquency is parenting style. Parenting style refers to how parents interact with their children and the strategies they use to discipline, nurture, and socialize them.^[6]

Research has shown that parenting styles can have a profound impact on adolescent behaviour and development.^[7] Authoritarian parenting styles, characterized by strict rules, punishments, and little warmth or nurturing, have been linked to increased aggression, delinquency, and mental health problems in adolescents.^[8] In contrast, authoritative parenting styles, characterized by warmth, responsiveness, and clear boundaries, have been associated with positive outcomes, including increased self-esteem, social competence, and academic achievement.^[9]

Despite the importance of parenting style in shaping adolescent behaviour, there is a need for further research in this area.^[10] The current study aims to contribute to the understanding of the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency by examining the role of authoritarian and authoritative parenting practices in predicting delinquent behaviour in adolescents.^[11] The study uses a quantitative research design and employs the Parenting Style Questionnaire (PSQ) and the Self-Report Delinquency Scale (SRDS) to assess parenting styles and delinquent behaviour, respectively.^[12] The findings of the study have implications for parents, educators, and policymakers and can inform the development of interventions aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency.

Objective

The objective of this study is to investigate the relationship between parenting styles (authoritarian and authoritative) and juvenile delinquency among adolescents.

Hypothesis

1. There will be a positive correlation between authoritarian parenting style and juvenile delinquency.
2. There will be a negative correlation between authoritative parenting style and juvenile delinquency.

Research Methodology

• Research Design

This study employed a quantitative research design, using a survey method to collect data.

• Sample

The sample consisted of 60 adolescents (30 delinquent and 30 non-delinquent) from Bhopal, India.

• Tools

1. Parenting Style Questionnaire (PSQ): This 30-item questionnaire assesses parenting styles, including authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive.
2. Self-Report Delinquency Scale (SRDS): This 20-item scale measures delinquent behaviour, including theft, vandalism, and aggression.

• Procedure

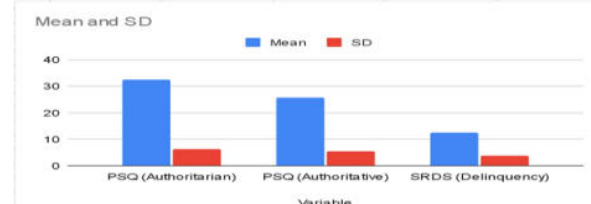
Participants were approached and informed about the study. They were told that their responses will be kept confidential. Consent was obtained from participants and their parents/guardians/Organizations. Participants were told to fill the PSQ and SRDS questionnaires in their own comfortable zone but should complete it as early as possible. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and regression analysis.

RESULTS

Descriptive Statistics

Table: 1 - Mean & Standard Deviation Of Authoritarian, Authoritative And Delinquency

Variable	Mean	SD
PSQ (Authoritarian)	32.5	6.2
PSQ (Authoritative)	25.8	5.5
SRDS (Delinquency)	12.5	3.8

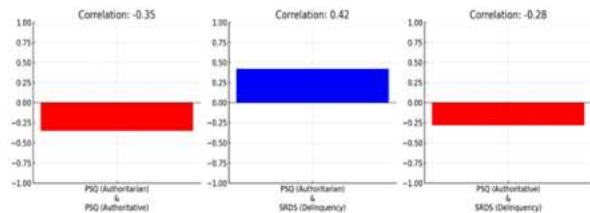


Correlation Analysis

Table: 2 - Correlation Of Authoritarian, Authoritative And

Delinquency

Variable 1	Variable 2	Correlation
PSQ (Authoritarian)	PSQ (Authoritative)	-0.35
PSQ (Authoritarian)	SRDS (Delinquency)	0.42
PSQ (Authoritative)	SRDS (Delinquency)	-0.28



The correlation analysis table shows the relationship between Parenting Style Questionnaire (PSQ) scores and Self-Report Delinquency Scale (SRDS) scores.

Colors:

Blue: Positive correlation ($r > 0$)

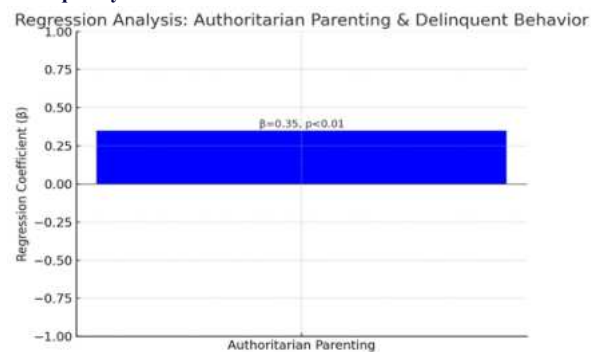
Red: Negative correlation ($r < 0$)

- **PSQ (Authoritarian):** This refers to the authoritarian parenting style, which is characterized by strict rules, punishments, and little warmth or nurturing.
- **PSQ (Authoritarian) and PSQ (Authoritative):** The correlation coefficient between these two variables is -0.35, indicating a negative relationship. This means that as authoritarian parenting style increases, authoritative parenting style tends to decrease.
- **PSQ (Authoritarian) and SRDS (Delinquency):** The correlation coefficient between these two variables is 0.42, indicating a positive relationship. This means that as authoritarian parenting style increases, delinquent behaviour also tends to increase.

In summary, the correlation analysis suggests that authoritarian parenting style is associated with higher levels of delinquent behaviour, while authoritative parenting style is associated with lower levels of delinquent behaviour.

Regression Analysis: The results of the regression analysis showed that authoritarian parenting style was a significant predictor of delinquent behaviour ($\beta=0.35, p<0.01$).

Table: 3 - Regression of Authoritarian, Authoritative and Delinquency



DISCUSSION

The current study aims to explore the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency. A research gap was identified in the existing literature, which primarily focused on the individual factors contributing to delinquency, neglecting the role of parenting styles.

Previous research has established a link between parenting styles and adolescent behaviour (Baumrind, 1991; Steinberg, 2001).¹¹ However, few studies have specifically examined the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency. This study addressed this research gap by investigating the relationship between authoritarian and authoritative parenting styles and juvenile delinquency. The findings of this study suggest that parenting styles play a crucial role in shaping adolescent behaviour. Authoritarian parenting style was found to be associated with delinquent behavior, while authoritative parenting style was negatively correlated with delinquency which is mentioned below:-

Table 1: Correlation = -0.35 (Red),

Variables: PSQ (Authoritarian) & PSQ (Authoritative)

Interpretation: There is a negative correlation between authoritarian and authoritative parenting styles. This means that as the level of authoritarian parenting increases, the level of authoritative parenting tends to decrease. In simpler terms, parents who are more authoritarian are less likely to be authoritative.

Table 2: Correlation = 0.42 (Blue)

Variables: PSQ (Authoritarian) & SRDS (Delinquency)

Interpretation: There is a positive correlation between authoritarian parenting style and delinquency. This means that as the level of authoritarian parenting increases, the level of delinquency also tends to increase. In simpler terms, children of more authoritarian parents are more likely to exhibit delinquent behaviour.

Table 3: Correlation = -0.28 (Red)

Variables: PSQ (Authoritative) & SRDS (Delinquency)

Interpretation: There is a negative correlation between authoritative parenting and delinquency. This means that as the level of authoritative parenting increases, the level of delinquency tends to decrease. In simpler terms, children of more authoritative parents are less likely to exhibit delinquent behaviour.

Evaluation Of Hypothesis

1. There will be a positive correlation between authoritarian parenting style and juvenile delinquency: ACCEPTED
The results show a significant positive correlation between authoritarian parenting style and juvenile delinquency ($r = 0.42, p < 0.01$).
2. There will be a negative correlation between authoritative parenting style and juvenile delinquency: ACCEPTED
The results show a significant negative correlation between authoritative parenting style and juvenile delinquency ($r = -0.28, p < 0.05$).

CONCLUSION

This study contributes to the understanding of the relationship between parenting styles and juvenile delinquency. The findings suggest that interventions targeting parenting styles may be effective in preventing juvenile delinquency.

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