

# SELF-CONCEPT AND PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLE: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

## ABSTRACT

The present study was intended to understand the inter-relationship among the component variables of parenting style as perceived by children. The relation between perceived parenting style variables and self-concept was also studied. Another objective was to test the difference between male and female students, and the differences among students with regard to order of birth for the above variables. Major hypotheses were formulated for the study. A stratified sample of 140 high school students was used. The data collected were analysed using Pearson  $r$ ,  $t$  test, and Anova which resulted in testing the tenability of the hypotheses.

## INTRODUCTION

The family into which the child is born markedly influences his/her attitudes and behaviour. Because the home is the child's first environment, it sets the pattern for his/her attitude toward people, things and life in general. The child uses his/her parents as models for his/her adjustment to life. The kind of parenting, a child receives during childhood plays an important role in shaping his/her personality. Also, the family environment has a profound role in the development and behaviour of the child and is a major determinant of the development of self-concept. Better family relationship and parental influence from a good background provide the child with a better self-concept.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Presently, parenting styles do have an effect on the child and there may be problems associated with parenting style such as emotional problems, interpersonal problems, sexual problems, family problems, and so on. Parenting style refers to the combination of rearing strategies and personal qualities of an individual parent. Parenting approach includes top discipline and control, the level of demand placed on the child and a parent's responsiveness to the child's needs and wishes. Thus parenting styles play a major role in the child's life. Children are very

adaptable. It is therefore tempting to assume that a child only needs to be "adequate" or just "good enough" to develop normally. Nevertheless excellent parents tend to optimize children's development actively. Quality care giving is well worth the effort (Baumrind, 1992).

Several research studies have been reported in the area of parenting style as perceived by children. For example, studies by Baumrind (1991), Miller, et al. (1991) and Weiss and Schwarz (1996) have shown that parents and adolescents whose parents are authoritative are rated by objective measures as socially and instrumentally competent than those of authoritarian parents and non-authoritative.

The importance of the present study increases due to the increasing problems faced by the children due to changing societal values and expectations from the parents. So the study would like to give more importance to the relationship between variables of perceived parenting style and the self-concept of High School students.

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## OBJECTIVES

The following were the objectives formulated for the study:

To estimate the relationship among the variables of perceived parenting style and self-concept.

To study the difference between male and female students in their perceived parenting style and self-concept.

To understand the difference among the different groups of students categorized on the basis of their order of birth in their perceived parenting style and self-concept.

## HYPOTHESES

The following were the hypotheses formulated for the study:

There will be significant correlation among the variables of perceived parenting style and self-concept.

There will be significant difference between male and female students in their perceived parenting style and self-concept.

There will be significant difference among the different groups of students categorized on the basis of their order of birth in their perceived parenting style and self-concept.

## METHOD USED FOR STUDY

The normative survey method was used for the present study. The details are given below.

### Sample

The sample for the present study consisted of 140 subjects, 70 males and 70 females studying in different schools in Thiruvananthapuram district (Tables 1 & 2).

**Table 1**  
**Sex-wise Breaking of the Sample**

Sex	N
Male	70
Female	70
Total	140

**Table 2**  
**Break-up of Sample Based on Birth Order**

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Birth Order	N
First Born	62
Second Born	57
Third Born and Above	21
Total	140

### b. Tools

A brief description of the tools is given below:

#### An Index of Parenting Style

The present investigation used An Index of Parenting Style (Sajimon, Laiju, & Sananda Raj, 2001) for measuring parenting style. Four parenting styles were measured for the present investigation, under two main categories: Authoritarian Parenting Style, and Neglectful Parenting Style.

#### Authoritarian Parenting Style

Authoritarian Parenting Style is a restrictive, punitive style in which the parent exhorts the child to follow their directions and to respect work and effort.

Authoritarian parenting places firm limits and controls on the child and allows little verbal exchange. Two variables involved under this category are Authoritarian Father, and Authoritarian Mother.

#### Neglectful Parenting Style

Here the term "Neglectful" means uninvolved, detached, and non conformist (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/parentingstyles>. Retrieved 14-06-2009). Neglectful parenting is a style in which the parent is uninvolved in the child's life. It is associated with children's social incompetence, especially a lack of self-control. Two variables involved under this category are Neglectful Father, and Neglectful Mother.

**Reliability:** The reliability of the test was determined using Split-Half reliability method. The reliability of the whole test was estimated using Spearman-Brown formula and it was found to be 0.60. This reliability coefficient is significant at 0.01 level, and it indicates that the test is substantially reliable.

**Validity:** Validity was found on the same sample as described under reliability. For estimating validity, it was correlated with Perceived Parental Attitude Inventory (Kumar & Sananda Raj, 1987). The correlation between the score on the test and the external criterion was found. Validity coefficient thus obtained was 0.519, which is significant at 0.01 level.

### Self-concept Scale

The self-concept scale used in the one developed by Chanda(1981).

**Reliability :** Re-test reliability coefficients were calculated and found to be 0.69 and 0.72 respectively for Part I and Part II of the scale.

**Validity:** Face validity was taken as an estimate of the validity of the test, as the test appears to measure what it intends to measure.

### c. Statistical Techniques

The statistical techniques employed for the analysis of data were,

- 1) Pearson's Correlation Coefficient, 2) the 't' test, and
- 3) ANOVA (Garrett, 1981).

## ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The Pearson Coefficient of correlation was done to find out the extent of relationship existing between parenting style and self-concept. The 'r' are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3**

### CORRELATION COEFFICIENT AMONG THE VARIABLES OF PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLE AND SELF-CONCEPT (N=140)

Variable	R				
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Authoritarian Father	( )	0.713*	-0.224*	-0.228*	0.179#
2. Authoritarian Mother	..	( )	-0.295*	-0.202#	0.168#
3. Neglectful Father	..	..	( )	0.681*	-0.187#
4. Neglectful Mother	..	..	..	( )	-0.174#
5. Self-concept	..	..	..	..	( )

Note: \* indicates significance at 0.01 level  
# indicates significance at 0.05 level

Table 3 shows the results of correlation coefficient among the five variables such as Authoritarian Father, Authoritarian Mother, Neglectful Father, Neglectful Mother, and Self-concept.

The table shows that there is a positive correlation between the perceived parenting styles of Authoritarian Father and Authoritarian Mother. Here the correlation value is 0.713 and it is significant at 0.01 level. This indicates that there is high significant relationship between the variables Authoritarian Father and Authoritarian Mother. The correlation between the perceived parenting styles of Authoritarian Father and Neglectful Father is found to be -0.224 and it is significant at 0.01 level. These results conclude that there exists low negative correlation between the parenting styles.

The correlation between the perceived parenting styles of Authoritarian Father and Neglectful Mother is found to be negative correlation of -0.228, which is significant at 0.01 level. So the result shows that there is low negative correlation between these parenting styles. The correlation between the perceived parenting styles of Authoritarian Father and subject's self-concept is found to be 0.179 and the correlation is positive. This is significant at 0.05 level. These results indicate that there exists a negative correlation between the authoritarian parenting styles and self-concept.

There exists a negative correlation of -0.202 (significant at 0.01 level) between the perceived parenting styles of Authoritarian Mother and Neglectful Father. So it is concluded that there is a low significant relationship between these two variables. Table 3 shows the correlation between perceived parenting styles of Authoritarian Mother and Neglectful Mother as -0.202 which is significant at 0.05 level. The results conclude that there is low negative correlation between these parenting styles.

The correlation between the perceived parenting style of Authoritarian Mother and the subject's self-concept is found to be 0.168. This 'r' is significant at 0.05 level. The result shows that there is a negative correlation between these two variables. There exists a substantial relation of 0.681 (significant at 0.01 level) between the variables of the parenting styles Neglectful Father and Neglectful Mother. There is a positive significant relation between the perceived parenting styles of Neglectful Father and Neglectful Mother.

The correlation between the perceived parenting styles of Neglectful Father and the subject's self-concept is found to be -0.187, which is significant at 0.05 level. This value shows that there is a negligible negative relation between the above two variables. The table shows the correlation between perceived parenting styles Neglectful Mother and the subject's self-concept as -0.174 and it is significant at 0.05 level. The result indicates there is a negligible negative relation between these variables.

**Table 4**

**DATA AND RESULTS OF T-TEST: SEX DIFFERENCE IN PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLE VARIABLES AND SELF-CONCEPT**

Variable	Sex	N	Mean	$\sigma$	t	Level of significance
Authoritarian Mother	Male	70	32.79	7.28	2.37	0.05
	Female	70	35.65	6.95		
Authoritarian Mother	Male	70	29.01	8.98	3.12	0.01
	Female	70	33.27	7.21		
Neglectful Mother	Male	70	26.91	6.84	2.38	0.05
	Female	70	22.84	5.43		
Neglectful Mother	Male	70	22.47	5.91	2.46	0.05
	Female	70	20.03	5.84		
Self-concept	Male	70	134	26.9	2.56	0.05
	Female	70	122.1	28.2		

Table 4 indicates the mean scores, SD, t, and level of significance for different variables such as Authoritarian Father, Authoritarian Mother, Neglectful Father, Neglectful Mother and Self-concept as a result of comparing the male and female High School students.

The mean and SD obtained by the male students for Authoritarian Father is 32.79 and 7.28 respectively. The female students scored a mean of 35.64 and an SD of 6.95. The t-value obtained by the Gender group for Authoritarian Father is 2.37 and their level of significance is 0.05. These results indicate that there is significant difference between the male and female students in their perceived parenting style of Authoritarian Father. In the case of Authoritarian Mother, the mean score obtained by male students is 29.01 with SD 8.98 and female students obtained a mean of 33.27 with SD 7.21. The t-value obtained by the Gender group for Authoritarian Mother, is 3.12 for the corresponding significant score of 0.01. These results show that there is significant difference between male and female students in their perceived parenting style for Authoritarian Mother.

The mean and SD of the male students in the case of Neglectful Father is 26.91 and 6.84 respectively. For this the female students obtained a mean of 22.84 and an SD of 5.43. The t-value obtained by the Gender group for Neglectful Father is 2.38 and it is significant at 0.05 level. These results show that there is no significant difference between male and female students in their perceived parenting style of Neglectful Father. The males and females obtained the mean score of 22.47 and 20.03 and SD scores of 5.91 and 5.84 for the variable Neglectful parenting style of Mother. The Gender group obtained a t-value of 2.46 and got a significant score of 0.05. These results show that there is no significant difference between male and female students in their perceived parenting style for Neglectful Mother.

The mean and SD obtained by the male students for the variable self-concept are 133.97 and 26.94 respectively. The female students obtained a mean score of 122.05 and an SD of 28.23. The 't' obtained by the Gender group for self-concept is 2.56 and the level of significance is 0.05. These scores indicate that there is a significant difference between the male and female students in their self-concept.

Table 5 shows the source, sum of squares, degree of freedom, mean square, F and the level of significance for the different variables, namely, Authoritarian Father,

Authoritarian Mother, Neglectful Father, Neglectful Mother, and the self-concept when compared with students having different birth order.

**Table 5**  
**BIRTH ORDER-WISE DIFFERENCES**  
**AMONG STUDENTS FOR PARENTING STYLE**  
**VARIABLES AND SELF-CONCEPT**

Sl.No.	Variables	Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Level of Significance
1	Authoritarian Father	Between Groups	187.106	2	93.553	1.352	Not significant
		Within Groups	9478.327	137	69.185		
2	Authoritarian Mother	Between Groups	314.278	2	157.139	2.113	Not significant
		Within Groups	10187.289	137	74.36		
3	Neglectful Father	Between Groups	116.752	2	58.376	1.512	Not significant
		Within Groups	5288.437	137	38.602		
4	Neglectful Mother	Between Groups	143.293	2	71.647	1.724	Not significant
		Within Groups	5694.398	137	41.565		
5	Self-concept	Between Groups	396.456	2	198.229	2.016	Not significant
		Within Groups	13473.696	137	98.348		

The results clearly indicate that no significant difference exists in any of these analyses.

## FINDINGS

1. Out of ten correlations obtained among the variables of perceived parenting style and self-concept of High School students, five correlations are significant statistically. So the hypothesis that "There will be significant correlations among the variables of perceived parenting style and self-concept" is moderately accepted.
2. Only one of the five t-values obtained between the male and female students in their perceived parenting style and self-concept is significant statistically. Therefore the hypothesis that, "There will be significant difference between male and female students in their perceived parenting style and self-concept" is partly accepted.

3. None of the five F-values obtained among the different groups of students categorized on the basis of birth order in their parenting style and self-concept is significant. Hence the hypothesis that, "There will be significant differences among the different groups of students categorized on the basis of birth order in their parenting style and self-concept" is rejected.

The present study implies that there exists a significant difference of parenting style, on the self concept of high school students. The early attachment style, parenting style determine the Pearson's adjustment with the present study. Children spend more time in their home. The parenting style influences to a large extent to the intellectual, physical and psychological well-being of a child. The parenting style differs among parents and the self concept of the children also differs in accordance with the parenting style.

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