



Factors Influencing Parenting Practices of Adolescent Parents

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ABSTRACT

The present study aimed to assess the existing parenting practices in rural and urban areas of Dharwad and to know the influence of socio-demographic factors on parenting practices. The sample consisted of 245 adolescents aged 12-15 years and their parents. Parenting practices was measured using Alabama parenting questionnaire (APQ) and socio-demographic factors using socio-economic scale (SES). Percentage distribution showed that urban parents use higher positive parenting rather than negative parenting practices compared to rural parents. Bivariate analysis revealed that child's age was significantly and indirectly correlated with positive and negative parenting practices; implied that as children age increased, parent's positive parenting decreased while parents' negative parenting increased significantly. Gender (male), showed less positive parenting and high negative parenting. Higher parent's education and better occupation showed high positive and less of negative parenting. Likewise, families with more number of children and in lower middle socio economic status showed less positive parenting and high in negative parenting. The predictors of urban parenting practices in the final model explained 43.8 % of the variance in positive parenting and 23.5 % in negative parenting. While for rural parenting practices, the final model explained 28.9% of the variance in positive parenting and 30.0 % in negative parenting.

Keywords: Positive and negative parenting, Individual, Parental and Familial factors.

INTRODUCTION

Parenting has been identified as the most challenging and complex of all the tasks of adulthood. It is defined as “the raising of a child by its parents; the act of caring for someone in the manner of a parent, assuming responsibility for the emotional, social and physical growth and development of a child” (Darling & Steinberg, 1993). However, very

little is known about influence of parenting in adolescents behaviors. In the present study, it was found the risk for externalizing (47.4 %) and internalizing (42.1 %) behaviors was higher for adolescents if their parents did not use positive parenting, were not providing adequate monitoring, consistent discipline and relied on corporal punishment, the whole sum of negative parenting dimensions.

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Therefore, this study aims to know the existing parenting practices and the determinants factors that influence parenting practices. According to the theoretical framework of ecological systems which posits how the inherent qualities of children and their environments interact to influence how they grow and develop (Bronfenbrenner, 1981). The family systems theory regards parenting as one of the immediate micro-system in an attempt to understand children development. Positive parenting can propel children to mastery of interpersonal relations and successful career. Webster-Stratton (2012) argued there is a great benefit in structured and positive parent-child interactions that may contribute to emotional and behavioral stability of children across all ages. Even for high-risk families, effective parenting is a key component that can mediate and moderate the impact of adversity on child behavior outcomes and help raise resilient children (Burlaka, 2016).

In contrast, negative parenting can contribute to the early onset of aggressive and defiant behaviors that may continue into adulthood and contribute to other mental health problems, such as substance abuse (Dubow et al., 2008, Kawabata et al., 2011). Adolescents' independent decision-making and responsibility is developed through consistent parenting-clearly communicated behavior expectations followed up with natural and logical consequences when adolescents make mistakes or violate rules (Webster-Stratton, 2012). Neglectful parents fail to provide proper care, do not encourage school attendance, provide very little supervision, fail to establish norms or provide emotional and practical support to their children. Lack of child monitoring and the use of physical punishment as a logical consequence of misbehavior increases the risk of conduct problems, rule breaking and aggression (Burlaka, 2016).

The link between parenting and adolescents' adjustment having been so well established, it is surprising that little attention has been devoted to identifying and

understanding the processes and factors that contribute to the development of parenting itself. Several socio-demographic characteristics have been found to influence the quality of parenting. For example, rural geographic location, lower income, unstable work and high debt may contribute to caregiver depressive symptomatology and impact the ability to provide nurturing, warm and involved parenting (Dovgopol, 2009). Chumak & Tkachenko (2008) also proposed that constructive and respectful relations with the child largely depend on family socioeconomic status, the psychological climate in the home and education of parents. It is imperative to consider the impact of these factors on parenting practices. So, the study aimed to know the influence of child factors (age, gender and ordinal position), parental factors (education and occupation) and familial factors (type of family, number of children and socio-economic status) on parenting practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A descriptive and correlation research method was used to study the characteristics of a population and the influence of socio-demographic factors on parenting practices of adolescent parents. Adolescents studying in 7th, 8th and 9th standards from a total of eight schools in urban and rural schools of Dharwad taluk were drawn based on these criteria: adolescents belonged to intact family, in the age group of 12 to 15 years and parents are literates. A total of 360 adolescents from intact families participated in the study. To all the participants, parents' questionnaires were distributed for their parents. Out of 360 parents questionnaires only 245 parents returned questionnaires (i.e., 141 urban parents data and 104 are rural parents data) which form the final sample of the study.

Analysis

Descriptive statistic was used to know the percentage distribution of factors selected for the study. Correlation was employed to know the relationship between selected factors and parenting practices and regression analysis

was used to determine the predictors of parenting practices.

Measures

i) General information schedule

The information such as age, gender, ordinal position, family type and number of children was assessed using general information schedule.

ii) Parenting practices

The Alabama Parenting Questionnaire (Frick, 1991) has been widely used for the purpose of measuring parenting skills in parents of children 6–18 years of age. The APQ consists of 42 items assessing positive and negative parenting practices grouped within six areas: (a) involvement (b) positive parenting (c) poor monitoring/supervision (d) inconsistent discipline (e) use of corporal punishment and (f) use of discipline practices other than corporal punishment. Items are rated on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (never) to 5 (always). No reverse coding is necessary. Two sub-scales of the measure, involvement and positive parenting form the APQ Positive Parenting Scale (Cronbach's $\alpha=0.94$) while inconsistent discipline, poor monitoring/supervision and use of corporal punishment form the APQ Negative Parenting Scale (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.88$). The score of each item are added to obtain a total score for each sub-scale that ranges for positive (16-80) and negative parenting (19-95) respectively; higher the scores higher is the parenting practices.

iii) SES by Aggarwal et al. (2005)- It consists of 23 statements which assess parents' education, occupation, location, number of children, possessions of agricultural land, domestic animals and social status of the family. The scores are given for different dimensions and added to obtain total score ranges from very poor (≤ 15) to upper high (≥ 76) socio-economic status, the score indicated higher level better is the socio-economic status.

RESULTS

Demographic characteristics of adolescents

The percentage distribution of demographic characteristics of adolescents is presented in table 1. It is apparent from the table that more than 50 percent of both urban and rural adolescents were in age group of 12 to 13 years and were female. Among urban adolescents majority (41.1 %) were firstborn whereas among rural adolescents majority (41.3 %) were middle born. Regarding parental factors, 48.9 per cent of urban adolescents' fathers were post graduate or professional ($>$ above graduation) and 41.1 per cent were less than graduate while in case of rural fathers, 41.1 per cent had completed class 10th but less than graduation followed by 32.7 per cent were less than class 10th. Similarly, urban adolescents' mothers with higher percentages (44.7 %) had completed class 10th but less than graduation while among rural mothers, 51.0 per cent had completed less than class 10th.

Regarding fathers' occupation, majority of urban fathers (70.2 %) were in service in central/state/private sectors whereas among rural fathers, 43.3 per cent were in service at own shop/transport or cultivation. For, urban mothers, almost equal percentage (41.8 %) were in service in central/state/private sectors or self-employed whereas among rural mothers majority (48.1%) were self-employed or housewives.

With respect to familial factors, majority of urban (75.9 %) and rural (63.4 %) adolescents were from nuclear family and higher percentages of urban (48.2 %) and rural (51.9 %) adolescents' families had medium number of children followed by less number of children and belonging to lower middle socio economic status except among urban adolescents, where 39.0 per cent were in upper middle socio economic status.

Table 1: Percentage distribution of demographic characteristics of adolescents of Dharwad

Sl No.	Characteristics	Category	Dharwad (n=245)	
			Urban (n=141)	Rural (n=104)
I. Individual factors				
1.	Age (Years)	12-13	81(57.4)	60(57.7)
		14-15	60(42.6)	44(42.3)
2.	Gender	Male	60(42.6)	48(46.2)
		Female	81(57.4)	56(53.8)
3.	Ordinal position	First born	58(41.1)	34(32.7)
		Middle born	49(34.8)	43(41.3)
		Last born	34(24.1)	27(26.0)
II. Parental factors				
1.	Fathers' education	>graduation	69(48.9)	27(26.0)
		10 th above but <graduation	58(41.1)	43(41.3)
		<class 10 th	14(9.9)	34(32.7)
2.	Mothers' education	>graduation	42(29.8)	16(15.4)
		10 th above but <graduation	63(44.7)	35(33.7)
		<class 10 th	36(25.5)	53(51.0)
3.	Fathers' occupation	Service in central/state/private	99(70.2)	45(43.3)
		Service at shop/ home/transport/ own cultivation	32(22.7)	45(43.3)
		Self employed	10(7.1)	14(13.5)
4.	Mothers' occupation	Service in central/state/private	58(41.1)	22(21.1)
		Service at shop/ home/transport/ own cultivation	24(17.0)	32(30.8)
		Self employed	59(41.8)	50(48.1)
III. Familial factors				
1.	Type of family	Nuclear family	107(75.9)	66(63.4)
		Joint family	34(24.1)	38(36.6)
2.	Number of children	Large (≥6)	13(9.2)	25(24.0)
		Medium (3-5)	68(48.2)	54(51.9)
		Small (≤2)	60(42.6)	25(24.0)
3.	Socio-economic status	Upper high	10(6.4)	7(6.7)
		High	32(22.7)	9(9.7)
		Upper middle	55(39.0)	30(28.8)
		Lower middle	35(25.5)	42(40.4)
		Poor	9(6.4)	16(14.4)

Figure in the parenthesis indicate percentage

Percentage distribution of urban adolescents of Dharwad by parenting practices

The percentage distribution of urban adolescents' parents of Dharwad by positive and negative parenting is depicted in figure 1. It was observed that for positive parenting, 32 per cent of urban adolescents' parents were in

high level followed by equal percentages (31.0 %) were in above average and average levels and only 6 per cent were in low level, respectively. In case of negative parenting, 45 per cent equally were in average and below average levels while only 10 per cent were in above average level respectively.

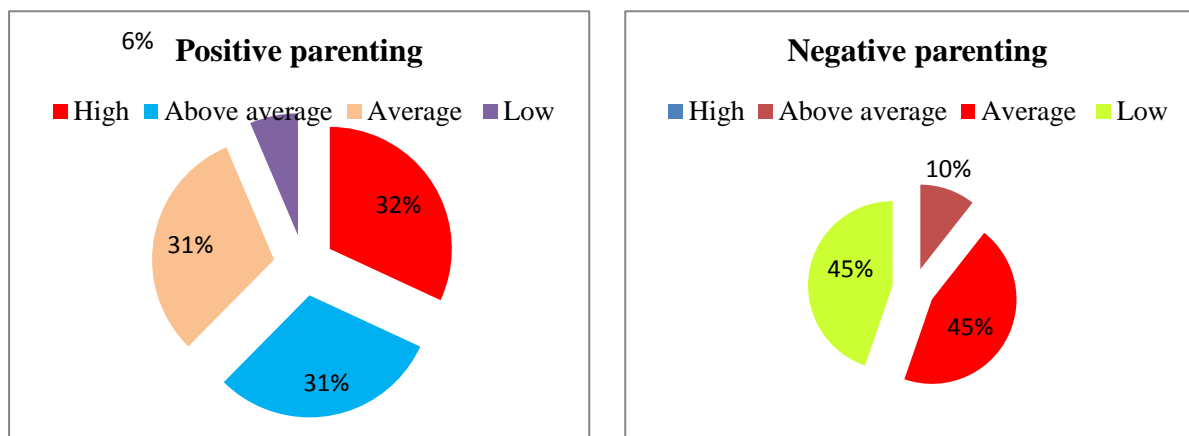


Fig. 1: Percentage distribution of urban adolescents of Dharwad region by parenting practices

In view of figure 2 shows the percentage distribution of rural adolescents’ parents by positive and negative parenting. For positive parenting, higher percentage (40.0 %) were in average, 28 % per cent in above average and only 14 per cent were in high level,

respectively. For negative parenting, 47 per cent were in average followed by 33 per cent in above average and 20 per cent in low level while none of the adolescents’ parents was in high negative parenting.

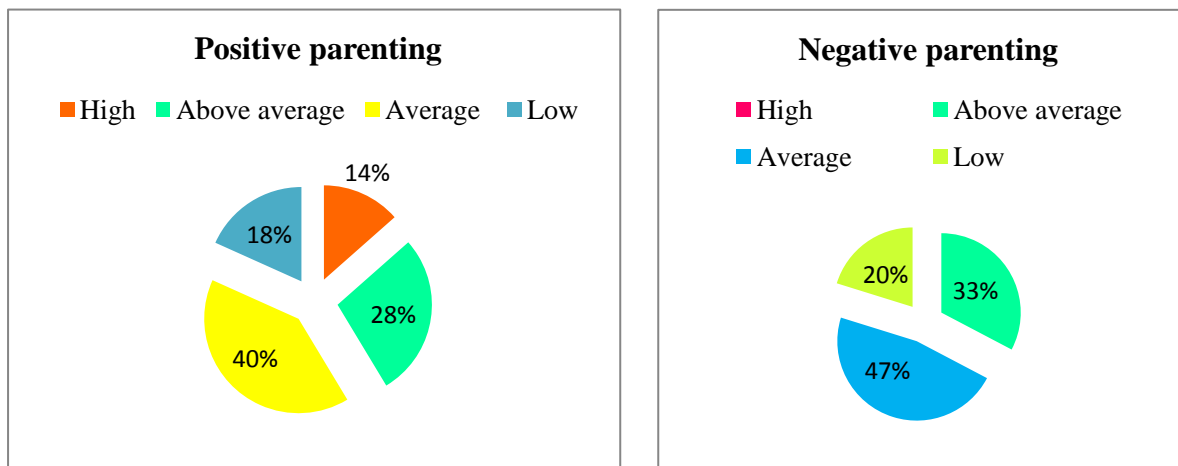


Fig. 2: Percentage distribution of rural adolescents of Dharwad region by parenting practices

Influence of socio-demographic factors on parenting practices

Table 2 reveals the relationships between socio-demographic factors and parenting practices of Dharwad adolescents’ parents. Regarding individual factors, urban adolescents’ age ($r=-0.28$) was significantly correlated only with parental positive parenting while rural adolescents’ age was significantly correlated with positive parenting ($r=-0.28$) and negative parenting ($r=0.38$). In regard to parents’ education and occupation, there was positive ($r=0.28, 0.35, 0.31, 0.22$) and negative ($r=-0.26,-0.21, -0.24, -0.19$)

significant correlation with urban parental positive and negative parenting, respectively. Similar trend of relationships was also found between rural parent’s education and occupation with parenting practices. With respect to familial factors, number of children was significantly correlated with urban and rural parent’s positive ($r=-0.38$) and negative ($r=0.25, 0.37$) parenting. Likewise, socio economic status and marital satisfaction showed a positive ($r=0.47, 0.22, 0.39, 0.37$) and negative ($r=-0.35, -0.25, -0.36$) significant correlation with urban and rural parent’s positive and negative parenting.

Table 2: Correlation coefficients between independent variables and parenting practices of Dharwad region

N=245

Independent variables	Urban		Rural	
	Positive parenting	Negative parenting	Positive parenting	Negative parenting
Individual factors				
Age	-0.28**	0.13	-0.27**	0.38**
Gender	-0.10	0.13	-0.32**	0.26**
Ordinal position	0.05	-0.01	0.12	-0.09
Parental factors				
Fathers’ education	0.28**	-0.26**	0.18	-0.21*
Mothers’ education	0.35**	-0.21*	0.23*	-0.27**
Fathers’ occupation	0.31**	-0.24**	0.24*	-0.21*
Mothers’ occupation	0.22**	-0.19*	0.12	-0.11
Familial factors				
Type of family	0.03	-0.08	0.15	-0.09
Number of children	-0.38**	0.25**	-0.38**	0.37**
Socio economic status	0.47**	-0.35**	0.39**	-0.35**

Note: *Significant at 0.05 level, **Significant at 0.01 level

Predictors’ variables of urban parenting practices

Regression results (table 3) demonstrate the predictors of parenting practices of Dharwad urban adolescent’s parents. Among individual factors in model 1, only age ($\beta=-0.28$, $p<0.01$) revealed as significant predictor of positive parenting. When parenting factors added in model 2, adolescents’ age ($\beta=-0.31$, $p<0.05$) remained as significant predictor of positive parenting and only mother education ($\beta=0.27$, $p <.05$) emerged as significant predictor of

positive parenting. When familial factors were entered in model 3, adolescents’ age ($\beta=-0.39$, $p<0.01$), father’s education ($\beta=-0.20$, $p<0.05$) reappeared as significant contributor. In addition, number of children ($\beta=-0.18$, $p <.05$) and socio economic status ($\beta=-0.49$, $\beta=-0.31$, $p <.05$, $p < .01$, respectively) emerged as significant predictor of positive and negative parenting practices. The final model (R square) explained 43.8 % of the variance in positive parenting and 23.5 % of the variance in negative parenting practices.

Table 3: Predictors (Hierarchical regression model) of parenting practices of Dharwad urban adolescent’s parents

Independent variables	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	Positive parenting	Negative parenting	Positive parenting	Negative parenting	Positive parenting	Negative parenting
Individual factors						
Age	-0.28**	-0.13	-0.31*	-0.14	-0.39**	0.20*
Gender	-0.07	0.13	-0.07	0.13	-0.08	0.12
Ordinal position	0.06	-0.00	0.00	0.04	-0.03	0.07
Parental factors						
Fathers’ education			-0.01	-0.10	0.20*	0.03
Mothers’ education			0.27*	-0.03	0.13	0.02
Fathers’ occupation			0.16	-0.11	0.05	-0.05
Mothers’ occupation			0.01	-0.07	-0.06	-0.04
Familial factors						
Type of family					0.12	-0.15
Number of children					-0.18*	0.06
Socio economic status					0.49**	-0.31*
F value	4.76**	1.71	5.78**	2.55**	7.01**	2.76**
R	0.306	0.190	0.555	0.405	0.662	0.485
R Square	0.094	0.036	0.308	0.164	0.438	0.235
R Square change	0.094	0.036	0.214	0.128	0.130	0.071

Figure shown is β -beta value. *Significant at 0.05 level, **Significant at 0.01 level

Table 4 reveals the predictors of parenting practices of Dharwad rural adolescent’s parents. In model 1, age showed as significant contributor only to negative parenting practices ($\beta=-0.29$, $p<0.01$) and gender also appeared as significant contributor of positive parenting ($\beta=-0.20$, $p<0.05$) and negative parenting ($\beta=-0.17$, $p<0.05$). When parenting factors added in model 2, mother’s education ($\beta=0.21$, $p <.01$, and $\beta=-0.19$, $p <.01$) showed as significant predictor of positive parenting

and negative parenting while mother’s occupation ($\beta=0.17$, $p <.01$) only towards positive parenting. When familial factors were entered in model 3, age ($\beta=0.28$, $p <.01$) remained as predictor and in addition only socio economic status appeared as predictor of positive practices ($\beta=0.81$, $p <.01$). The final model (R square) explained 78.8 % of the variance in parenting practices and 29.1 % of the variance in negative parenting practices.

Table 4: Predictors (Hierarchical regression model) of parenting practices of Dharwad rural adolescent's parents

Independent variables	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	Positive parenting	Negative parenting	Positive parenting	Negative parenting	Positive parenting	Negative parenting
Individual factors						
Age	0.20*	0.33**	0.13	0.32**	0.08	0.31**
Gender	-0.27**	0.18*	-0.22	0.16	-0.22*	0.18
Ordinal position	0.09	-0.06	0.10	-0.06	0.05	-0.03
Parental factors						
Fathers' education			-0.10	0.01	-0.19	0.05
Mothers' education			0.15	-0.20	0.04	-0.16
Fathers' occupation			0.09	-0.04	-0.00	0.01
Mothers' occupation			-0.01	0.06	-0.07	0.19
Familial factors						
Type of family					0.08	-0.00
Number of children					-0.24	0.31*
Socio economic status					0.23	0.00
F value	6.15**	7.43**	2.52*	3.13**	2.57**	2.72**
R	0.395	0.427	0.462	0.502	0.537	0.548
R Square	0.159	0.182	0.214	0.252	0.289	0.300
R Square change	0.159	0.182	0.058	0.070	0.075	0.048

Figure shown is β -beta value. *Significant at 0.05 level, **Significant at 0.01 level

DISCUSSION

Although majority of parents were reported use of positive parenting and less of negative parenting. Conversely, higher percentages of rural parents were use of negative parenting. This implied that urban parents involved more in their adolescents' day-to-day life activities than rural parents wherein among rural adolescents' parents higher levels of inconsistent discipline, poor monitoring and corporal punishment were found than urban adolescents' parents. Armistead et al. (2002) also showed that parents who resided in the urban area monitored more than do parents living in the less-risky rural area. A study by Evans and English (2002) have shown that rural youth with ineffective parenting showed higher rates of psychological distress and maladjustment than their urban counterparts do. Findings also reflected that parents with older children (14- 15years) had lower involvement or spending less time with them and decreased time in supervision and monitoring than with their younger children (Yeung et al., 2001). Similarly, Borawski et al. (2003) reported that older students reported significantly less parental monitoring and more unsupervised time than their younger (<14 years) peers. Further, parents of adolescent girls had higher parental

involvement, positive parenting and less likely of poor monitoring, inconsistent discipline and corporal punishment than parents of boys. This finding can partially be explained by the fact that parental knowledge is generally greater for girls than for boys. Girls are often closer and more intimate with their parents and appear more likely to share information about their whereabouts and daily activities voluntarily than do boys (Waizenhofer et al., 2004). Similarly, Borawski et al., (2003) showed that female students report significantly higher levels of parental monitoring and lower levels of parent-negotiated time than their male counterparts. Findings implied that the more literate a parent, the higher the warmth, involvement and positive parenting with respect to both the parents. This was in line with the study carried out by Davis-Kean (2005) wherein it was revealed that highly educated parents were actively involved in planning their children's future. A similar result was found by Hoffman et al. (2002) which showed that families where parents worked in central sectors or professional jobs, these parents had a better involvement in positive parenting than parents with low SES jobs. Another study (Burlaka et al., 2017) revealed that parents with better education had higher income and therefore,

could experience lower financial strain compared to less educated and impoverished parents. Being under pressure, some parents might fail to refrain from becoming angry and hitting the child. Lower education can also force parents to accept lower-paying and irregular jobs and they might need to spend more hours away from their children and have fewer opportunities to monitor their children's behavior and whereabouts. It was also observed that parents from families with less number of children and belonging to high socio economic status had high positive parenting and less of negative parenting. Research review showed that families with fewer children (<2) had significantly higher levels of parental involvement and positive parenting while significantly low levels of negative parenting (inconsistent discipline, poor monitoring and corporal punishment). Pardini et al. (2008) also found that having more number of children in the home was associated with increased levels of low positive parenting and poorer parental involvement and more levels of poor monitoring and physical punishment. Greater the family size, lower the reported warmth in the home (Davis- Kean, 2005). In the context of families' socio economic status, Hoff et al. (2002) showed that low SES parenting was associated with higher levels of harsh punishment and a lower level of parental involvement. It was found that in families where parents worked in a low SES job (manual or service sectors), these parents had a higher likelihood of enforcing strict rules than parents who worked in a professional or managerial job. Elgar et al. (2007) showed income adequacy was significantly related to less parental monitoring and nurturance, which was consistent with other research reported greater difficulties in parenting among low-income families as compared to more affluent families.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION

This study provides the evidence that parenting itself doesn't determine the outcomes of children development. However, it is the risk factors that determine the consequences of parenting practices,

particularly the factors that are rooted at the individual level. Family structural variables such as parental education and income affect the parental knowledge leading to poor parenting skills and practices and concomitantly with child's behavior problems. Additional, the interaction between child's factors emerged significant that contributes towards parenting behaviors, variation in parenting behaviors are not only affect by own individual factors but other causal factors, the family factors that determine the parenting quality. It is imperative to consider the impact of these factors through further investigation using longitudinal method and thereby focusing at intervention program to equip those at risk parents with better knowledge and skills for effective parenting practices especially in consideration of geographic location or deprived rural areas where the challenges is more than well to do families in urban areas.

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