

Dominant & Submissive Parenting. Its Effect on a Child's Behaviour

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ABSTRACT: *The study of children is the most important subject matter of Social Science enquiry in order to ensure the proper health of the family & for making home a "heaven on earth". The study of the child is actually a study of its personality. Parent-child relationship is largely affected by the type of parenting style adopted by the parents for raising their kids. The present investigation provides an overview of research on dominant & submissive parenting & their influence on a child's behaviour. Ten year old primary school going children were the subjects for the study. Personality assessment results and thus the personality model formulated by the researcher confirmed a significant relationship between dominant & submissive parenting & their effect on a child's behaviour.*

KEY WORDS: *Dominating, Submissive, Parenting, Personality, Model.*

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I. INTRODUCTION:

The parent child relationship has a major influence on most aspects of child's development during the 1st years of life thought by many to be a unique period of human development, Parents assume a special importance. As parents guide their young children from complete infantile dependence into the beginning stages of autonomy, it is their parenting style which decides the child's cognitive, behavioural & emotional patterns of functioning. Parenting is more than a set of specific practices like encouraging them to play outdoors or helping them with their homework. Parenting includes the overall approach that parents take to guiding, controlling & socializing their kids. The attitudes that parents have about their children and the resulting emotional climate that creates it remarkably affect parent child relationships. It's this general pattern- this emotional climate- that researchers refer to as "parenting style" (Darling & Steinberg 1993). In a rapidly changing world, parenting seems subject to fads and changing styles, and parenting in some ways has become a competitive sport.

There is such a thing as dominant parenting and aiming for too much perfection cripples children as they move into adulthood and renders them unable to cope with the merest setbacks. Of course, there is also such a thing as submissive parenting, and it is likely that lack of parental engagement often leads to poor behavioural outcomes in children, in part because it encourages the young to be too reliant on peer culture. Ironically, harsh / authoritarian or dominating styles of parenting can have the same effect. The present research investigated the pattern of dominant and submissive parenting, the effects posed by each on a child's behaviour and consequences faced by the parents.

Importance of the study:

In context of parental authority of children, few of the debates advanced for more submissiveness or for more stern parental control have yet been verifiably assessed. Experts of psychology, psychotherapist, parents, teachers and the elderly in the house have frequently discussed with unassailable views on either aspects of these parenting styles, but the affirmation has generally come from credible theories, experimental cases, exclusive experiences or inadvertent favouritism. This research strives to make explicit, conclusive findings beyond the drawbacks mentioned above. The conclusions were derived from objective psychological findings.

Objectives Of The Study:

1. To assess the parenting pattern of the respondents.
2. To group the respondents based on the type of parenting style.
3. To study the impact of parenting style on child's behaviour and overall development.
4. To develop a model showing the effect of parenting pattern & style on a child's comprehensive growth based on the findings of the study.

Hypothesis:

There is a significant association between dominant and submissive styles and their effects on a child's behaviour.

Methodology:

The subjects in the study were 10-year old primary school going children whose homes had been visited and evaluated. Primary school teachers and observers rated the children's behaviour in the school.

Definition:

1. **Dominant Parenting** is a common parenting style in today's hard-knock lifestyle. It relies heavily on the structure role, while not including enough caring and nurture. A parent using this style refuses to listen to the child's point of view at all and is typically unharmonious, exasperated and cold. These are the parents who show of having many power struggles, accuse their child of having bad intentions, dole out harsh punishments, discredit their child's ideas. Tricking and humiliating the child, withholding information about expectations, imposing a litany behaviour of strict authority are the characteristics of such parents.
2. **Submissive Parenting:** Just opposite of the dominant parents are submissive parents who give into their children and permit them to dominate the home. The child's every wish is gratified if the parents can possibly fulfill it, even against their better judgment. This type of parenting relied most heavily on the nurture role, but without offering enough structure. These are the parents who worry about being "Liked" by their children, who act flustered, evade discipline issues, remain unclear or indirect in their requests beg for cooperation, allow themselves to be dominated by their child and blame themselves and take all the responsibility when problems arise.

Parental Attitude: The relationship of the parent to the child and of the child to the parent is in a constant state of flux, and this requires constant adjustment on the part of the both. Any emotional experience that disturbs the psychological equilibrium of one member of the family will bring about a disturbance in the psychological equilibrium of all members of the family (Berman, 1948). Fundamentally, the parent-child relationship is dependent upon the parent's attitude. These are influenced partly by cultural values, and partly by the personality patterns of the parents and their concepts of the role of parents. In recent years, there have been marked changes in attitudes towards children. Around the turn of this century, Freud (1913) contended that too much "parental tenderness" accelerates sexual maturity, "spoils" the child, and makes him unable to be satisfied with a smaller amount of love in later life. Attitudes vary from adult to adult and from time to time in the same adult (Dawe et al., 1949). The parent may be overindulgent at certain times and over strict at others. The parent's attitude towards the child may be a reflection of their own adjustment or maladjustment to life and to marriage (Cole, 1954). Too often, parents approve of child's behaviour which makes for smooth running of the household, but show little regard for the development of the child's personality (Stogdill, 1936; Lafore, 1945).

Characteristics of Dominant Parents:

These explicative pointers are qualities of behaviour of the strict parent during early childhood.

1. Over protectiveness.
2. Prevention of development of self-reliance.
3. Over indulgence in day to day activities.
4. Insistence on strict obedience.
5. Not allowing any competing interest to interfere with their parental duties, reducing their interests in life to minimum (Bakwin, 1948).
6. High use of physical punishment.
7. Strong emphasis of doing well in school.
8. High demands for good table manners.
9. High restrictions on playing games both indoors and outdoors.
10. Severe punishment for aggression towards parents.

Characteristics of Submissive Parents:

These descriptive pointers are qualities of behaviour of the submissive parents during early childhood.

1. Set rules but rarely enforce them.
2. Don't give out consequences very often.
3. Think that their child will learn best with little interference from their side.
4. Often only step in when there is some serious problem.

5. Don't put much effort into discouraging poor choices or bad behaviour.
6. May use bribery such as toys, gifts and food as a means to get child to behave.
7. Shown lack of demands and expectations.
8. Cater to a child's whims and wishes.
9. Failure to accept responsibilities.
10. Permit their child to boss around and dominate the home.

Table 1:

TYPE OF PARENTING	TYPE OF CHILD'S BEHAVIOUR ASSOCIATED WITH IT
1. Dominant Parenting	
➤ Rejective	Nervous, Sadistic, Feelings of insecurity, Shy, Stubborn, Submissive, Non-Compliant
➤ Inharmonious	Aggressive, Neurotic, Jealous, Delinquent
➤ "Babying" (Overprotective)	Infantile, Jealous, Nervous, Feelings of insecurity
➤ Discipline Issues	Neurotic, Rebellious, Poor adjustment
2. Submissive Parenting	
➤ Permissiveness	Selfish, Demanding, Tyrannical, Impatient, Restless, Unhappy
➤ Discipline Issues	Antagonistic, Careless, Over-confident, Self-important, Stubborn
➤ Freedom Giving	Over-confident, Self-important, Independent, Boastfulness
➤ Low-demandingness	Worse self-control, Possession of ego-centric tendencies, Problematic social interactions
➤ High Responsiveness	More impulsive, Poor self-regulation of emotions, Prone to mental issues

Personality Assessment:

Factor analysis by principal component is applied on variables of personality to reduce them into relevant paramount factors. Principal Component Analysis was used for extracting factors and the no. of factors to be retained was based on latent root criterion and screen plot analysis. The names of the factors, the statement labels and factor loadings are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Factor Analysis Results

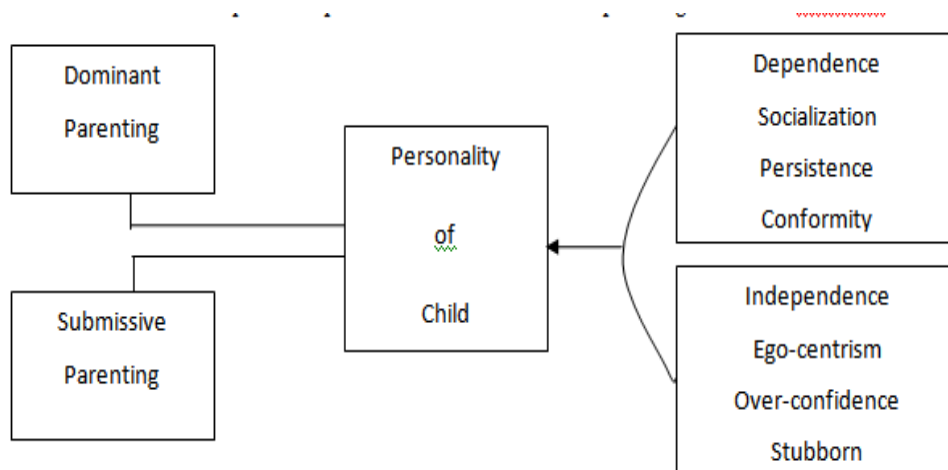
Factor No.	Name of Factor	Label	Statement	Factor Loading	
				Children of Dominant Parents	Children of Submissive Parents
F1	Openness	P72	Able to handle social situations	0.749	0.597
		P19	Appreciates splendor & craft	0.428	0.343
		P30	Sense of cooperation	-0.211	0.490
		P58	Has few artistic interests	0.343	-0.292
F2	Introversion	P5	Is reserved	0.741	0.218
		P31	Tends to be quiet	0.609	0.102
		P2	Is talkative	-0.572	0.348
		P66	Likes to be alone, doesn't show much emotion	0.314	0.608
F3	Dominance	P13	Starts quarrels with others	0.407	0.294
		P35	Has a dominant personality	0.688	0.214
F4	Diverson	P38	Worries too much of what others would think of me	0.124	0.508
		P25	Is easily distracted	-0.501	0.572
F5	Emotional Stability	P7	Worries a lot	-0.462	0.696
		P28	Gets nervous easily	-0.523	0.527
		P15	Is relaxed, handles stress well	0.661	0.416
		P23	Remains calm in tense situations	0.463	-0.675

The personality variables depend on five factors, namely openness, introversion, dominance, emotional stability and diversion. Openness indicates how open-minded a person is? Open-minded children are usually imaginative, rather than practical. Such children are curious about things, creative in their interests and open to new ideas. Introversion is the tendency to be concerned with one's own thoughts and feelings rather than with

external things. Dominance is the fact or the state of being dominant, such as psychologically controlling, prevailing, or powerful position in social hierarchy. Emotional stability is the capacity to maintain one's emotional balance under stressful circumstances. It contributes to control one's actions rationally. Diversion is the act or an instance of diverting or straying from a course, activity. Psychologically, it means a person getting distracted easily by others and their actions.

Personality Model

The personality assessments of children from both dominant and submissive parents indicate remarkably different behavioural patterns. The degree of parental acceptance is significantly related to the results of factor analysis conducted on these children. On the basis of the findings of the personality assessment, it is quite clear that development of the child in either case is psychologically unhealthy. Both dominant and submissive parenting styles are unworthy for children. Based on the factor loading results, a personality model has been formulated to depict the impact of dominant & submissive parenting on a child's behaviour.



Childhood History Of Parents:

Dominant Parents:

In every home, there is apt to be one parent who dominates the whole family. A dominant parent usually comes from a family in which one or both parents were dominating. As a child, this parent was forced into submissiveness by his own parents. Later, as a parent he dominates his own children in much the same way as he himself was dominated. The child who is dominated by one or both the parents has better socialized behaviour than the child who is given more freedom. He is honest, polite and careful. But he is also likely to be shy, docile, self-conscious, submissive and sensitive. He feels inadequate inferior, confused, bewildered and inhibited (Symonds, 1938, 1949). He is easily led and dominated by his family and his peers. As he grows older, he is likely to be afraid that others will cheat him and to develop a “**sucker complex**” (Martin, 1943).

Submissive Parents:

Parents who submit to their children generally have inadequate personalities characterized by childishness and failure to accept responsibility. They themselves were children of submissive parents and initiate in their own behaviour the behavioural pattern set for them by their parents (Symonds, 1939). When a mother is over-submissive, there is a tendency for the child be infantile in his behaviour and to have rebellions, deficient and tyrannizing attitude towards others (Levy, 1939).

II. CONCLUSION

The study has assessed the parenting patterns of the respondents, who were the dominant and submissive parents, respectively. Behavioural patterns were studied thoroughly among children coming from both types of parenting. Five personality factors of such children were assessed, namely openness, introversion, dominance, emotional stability and diversion.

Based on the factor analysis results, a personality model of children's behaviour was formulated and compared for dominant and submissive parent types. The hypothesis created in the beginning of the research that there is a significant association between parenting styles and child's behaviour, especially in the case of dominant and submissive parenting, holds true.

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