

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTING STYLE AND SELF-CONCEPT

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ABSTRACT

The aimed of this research is to find out the relationship between parenting style and adolescent self-concept. A group of seventy-four (74) students from Tamhidi Program of Islamic Science University of Malaysia (USIM) was selected as the sample through simple random method. They were given with two (2) sets of questionnaire; Tennessee Self-Concept: 2 (TSCS: 2) by Fitz & Warrant (1996) and Baumrind Parenting Topology Index (BPTI) in order to obtain the parenting style and self-concept data. The results was analyzed using SPSS (Statistical Package of Science Social) version 20. Pearson correlation analysis shows that there is negative correlation between permissive parenting style and respondent self-concept ($r=-0.203$). The result also shows that there's no correlation between authoritarian parenting style and the respondent's self-concept ($r=0.036$). However the result shows that there is significant correlation between authoritative parenting style and the respondent's self-concept ($r=0.274$).

Keywords: Parenting style, Self-concept, Adolescent

Introduction

Adolescent is the next generation that will lead our country (Ooi, Choi & Rabeatul Husna, 2015) and our hope for better and prosper nation (Jee & Shahlan, 2017). They are individual between 12 to 21 years old whose in a transition period from children to adult (Harvigust, 1997 in Jas Laile Suzana, 2000). They are divided into three category with age 12 – 15 years old are categorized as early adolescent, age 15 – 18 is classified as middle adolescent and age 18 – 21 is considered as late adolescent (Prabadewi & Widiasavitri, 2014).

The early adolescent individual will face with demand and pressure from other like they need to be more matured, independent and responsible. However, middle adolescent individual will belief in their self and have the answer for every confusion during the early adolescent period. While during late adolescent individual becomes more comfortable knowing themselves, understand their path and realize the life goal (Jahja, 2011).

Adolescents are also emotionally unstable (Jahja, 2011). Thus, adolescent faces many conflict during this period. At this point in time, they are in the process of building their self-concept which includes their self-confident, self-awareness, self-worth, self-satisfaction and self-value.

Self-concept is the most important elements of individual character which determine and directs one's behaviour as it forms the basic character of individual psychological and social compliance. Individual's self-concept is affected by many factors. One of the most influencing factor are other people's evaluation towards the individual especially the important person in his/her life (Peterson & Rollins, 1986).

Family is considered as the smallest social unit and the main element of each society. Family environment is the first and most important factor that influences the individual's growth (Bahrami, 2008). Family as the main pillar is the starting point of child's personality development (Nik Hairi, Azmi, & Ayob (2012); Bartle & Sabatelli (1989)). Family life is the first school for children to establish themselves (Ooi, Choi, & Rabeatul Husna, 2015).

Whilst family is the first learning ground, parents is seen as the important examples and reference point for children (Kamilah, (2005); Othman & Normalina (2010)). Parents are the role model in building character, personality, morals and faith as they are the source of aspirations during the adolescent's development process (Salasiah (2011); Collins, Maccoby, Hetherington & Bornstein (2000)).

Various studies performed indicates that one of the most effective factors on the development and formation of adolescent's personality is their parent's parenting practices (Belsky & Barends, 2002). Parent's parenting style decides the success or failure of the adolescent (Ooi, Choi, & Rabeatul Husna, 2015). There are two important aspects of parenting style in which is the amount of affection and kindness that children experience as well as the amount of acceptance and control that is applied by parents (Baumrind, 1971).

Further, Baumrind (1967) described parenting styles in four key dimensions which is control, demands for maturity, clarity of communication and nurturance. This variation were categorized in different parenting styles as authoritarian, authoritative and permissive.

Based on the parenting styles described by Baumrind (1967) and parents influence towards the adolescent, the researcher is interested to investigate the relationship between these parenting styles towards the respondent's self-concept. It was the researcher's hope that the finding of this research will be useful to guide the parents in shaping their children.

The following section will explain the three (3) types of parenting style and the self-concept element. As a guidance to better understand the research conducted, the research question, research objective and research design is explained in the subsequent section. Lastly, the result analysis and discussion together with the conclusion is detailed in the final section of this paper.

AUTHORITARIAN PARENTING STYLE

These parents are highly demanding, caring and have good child-parent communication (Zarina, 2012). This kind of parenting style employs parent's full authority where every decision is made by the parents and not by the children. Parents does not allow children to talk on the rules set by them. In this situation, children need to obey and follow all the decisions made by the parents as they invoke the, *you will do this because I said* and *because I'm the parent and you are not* principle.

Parents that practice this parenting style are strict disciplinarians, use a restrictive, punitive style and insist that their adolescent follow parental directions.

AUTHORITATIVE PARENTING STYLE

Authoritative parenting style gives courage and permits to their children to develop their own opinion and belief while approving, responsive and nurturing with moderate control (Baumrind, 1991). Authoritative parents do not invoke the *because I said* rule. Instead, they are willing to entertain, listen to, and take into account their teen's viewpoint. Authoritative parents engage in discussions and debates with their adolescent, although ultimate responsibility resides with the parent.

PERMISSIVE PARENTING STYLE

Permissive parenting style give all the freedom to the children in making any decision. They usually did not involve with their children's activity instead of just fulfilling all the child's wishes. Baumrind (1967) reported permissive parents have low self-control and self-reliance. The children of these parents are describes as anxious, immature (Karen, 1998) and show little initiative.

Baumrind (1991) also added that parents usually fail to set proper discipline to their children even they have few behavioral expectation on them. Parents also tends to encourage their children's autonomy and allow them to make their own decision and regulate their own activities. Parents hat employs this kind of parenting style have low demand but expect high responsiveness. In summary, this parenting style pampered the children and does not use punishment, controlling and restrictions towards the children.

SELF-CONCEPT

Self-concept is an element that has developed based on people environment and how they connect with the social life. Self-concept is related to cognitive dimension of individual and that is also represents the individual's action towards himself or herself (Ostagard-Ybrandt & Armelius, 2004). Self-concept are divided into two which is the negative self-concept and positive self-concept.

POSITIVE SELF-CONCEPT

In general, individual with positive self-concept are successful in their life. Those with positive self-concept have high confidence, talented, emotionally stable, capable in doing things and have good interpersonal skill and relationship with people around them. Positive self-concept can be developed through behaving objectively in knowing yourself, appreciate oneself, befriend to oneself and positive and rational thinking (Azizi, Jamaluddin, Yusof, Najib & Zurihanmi, 2009)

NEGATIVE SELF-CONCEPT

A person with negative self-concept tends to be seems as not doing well in their life. They usually failed in life as they always make trouble in their life. They did not manage their life well. Individual with negative self-concept easily feels unsatisfied in everything regarding themselves or other things that happens surrounding them.

Azizi (2004) further cited that individual with negative self-concept is easily and always get criticized by parents, friends and teachers. This makes them become more passive and does not know how to get along with people surrounding them. This impacted them to become shy and less self-confidence.

RESEARCH QUESTION

The research was conducted to answer two (2) research question:

- i) What is the difference on self-concept among respondent based on gender
- ii) What is the relationship between parenting style and respondents self-concept

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

Two (2) research objective has been set in this research as follows:

- i) To find out the differences of self-concept among respondents based on gender
- ii) To find out the relationship between parenting style and respondents self-concept

RESEARCH DESIGN

Correlational design research was deployed in this research. The independent variable in this research is the parenting style while respondents' self-concept was identified as the dependent variable.

A group of seventy-four (74) Tahmudi programme student from University Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) was randomly selected as the respondent for this study. There were thirty-seven (37) male and female respondent. Thus, the number of respondent in accordance to gender has been divided equally. All of them are eighteen (18) years old.

Quantitative data were collected for this research. Respondents were given with two (2) sets of questionnaire which is the Baumrind Parenting Style Topology Index (BPTI) and Tennessee Self-concept Scale: 2 (Fitts & Warren, 1996).

The BPTI questionnaire was used to obtain the parenting style data. There are twenty-four (24) items in this questionnaire to identify the authoritarian, permissive or authoritative parenting style. The scoring was based on Likert scale.

The Malay version of TSCS: 2 translated by Othman (2006) was used in this research to measure the respondent's self-concept. There are total of eighty-two (82) items in this questionnaire. The scoring for every item is based on Likert scale.

All data obtained was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: T-test Result on Respondent's Self-concept

	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	t	Mean Difference
Self-concept	Male	37	254.9	22.33	72	.169	-1.39	-8.432
	Female	37	263.4	29.41	67.158			

The t-test analysis shows that female subject have higher self-concept level as compared to the male subject. However, the score difference was not significant ($p=0.169$, $p>0.05$). This shows the self-concept level for both female and male respondents are at the same level.

Table 2: The Relationship between Parenting Style and Respondent's Self-concept

		Self-concept Level	Authoritarian	Permissive	Authoritative
Self-concept Level	Pearson Correlation	1	.036	-.203	.274*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.758	.084	.018
	N	74	74	74	74

* Correlation is significant $p < 0.05$ (2-tailed)

Table 2 above shows the correlation between self-concept level and the three (3) parenting style i.e. authoritarian, permissive and authoritative. The Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient was computed to assess the relationship between the defined variables. The analysis performed shows that there's significant correlation between authoritative parenting style and respondent's self-concept ($r=.274$, $p=.018$; $p<0.05$). The finding is similar to the result obtained from research done by Zarina (2012) and Azizi, Yusof & Kamaliah (2005) where there's significant relationship between self-concept and authoritative parenting style. On contrary, the analysis shows that there's no relationship between authoritarian parenting style and respondent's self-concept ($r=.036$, $p=.758$). The analysis performed reveals negative relationship between permissive parenting style and respondent's self-concept ($r=-.203$, $p=.084$).

The above findings is supported by Mohd Sharani and Zainal (2005) which summarizes that authoritative parenting style gives significant impact towards the child as it stressed on positive interaction, appreciation and self-concept. Jeynes (2007) and Talib (2011) further supported that authoritative parenting style have positive impact towards the student's achievement, disciplinary record and behavior.

Permissive parenting style exposes the child to bad achievement due as the parents are too open in communicating with the children and impose less control towards the children's attitude. Study conducted by Onder, Kirdok and Isik (2010) showed that child of authoritative and authoritarian parents is more decisive then the child's of neglectful and permissive parents. This finding explains the negative correlation obtained in Table 2 above.

CONCLUSION

Based on the result, it seems that authoritative parenting style have been widely practiced as it helps in building the adolescent's self-confidence, behavior and academic excellence (Azizi, Yusof, & Kamaliah (2005); Othman & Normalina (2010)). Despite being highly demanding, the effective communication between authoritative parents and adolescent plays an important role in preventing other issues that may exist in this parenting style (Jee & Shahlan, 2017). The significant positive correlation between authoritative parenting style and respondent's self-concept in this research is similar to the findings of previous study performed

by (Zarina (2012); Azizi, Yusof & Kamaliah (2005); Nik Hairi, Azmi & Ayob (2012); Parker & Benson (2004); Wan Mohd Agil (2009) & Md Zahir (2009). Jas Laile Suzana (2000) further supports that authoritative parenting style can produce healthy child development environment.

Authoritarian parenting style tends to control and evaluate the behavior and attitudes of their children while at the same time demand a set of behavioral standard. This parenting style assesses compliance and penalties as a good practice. They strictly control the children's behavior, not allowing them to decide their future direction and forces the children complying with the rules set by them. Jee & Shahlan (2017) states that too much control over the children can cause low self-concept, lack of problem solving creativity and low social and communication skills.

The data analysis in this research shows that there's no significant relationship between authoritarian parenting style and the respondent's self-concept. This finding is similar to the study conducted by Nik Hairi, Azmi & Ayob (2012).

Permissive parenting style are characterized as high in fulfillment but low in maturity, control and two-way communications between parents and children (Ooi, Choi, & Rabeatul Husna, 2015). These parents are pre-occupied with their own activities and does not discharge their responsibilities as parents. Due to the lack of parent's control, the children tends to be aggressive, have less self-control and could be easily influenced by peers in immoral activities (Othman & Normalina (2010); Maglio (2006) & Slicker (1996)). These attitude is in contrary to the characteristics of the respondents in this study.

Thus, the result from this study shows that there's no significant correlation between permissive parenting style and respondent's self-concept. The findings is similar to the study performed by Nik Hairi, Azmi & Ayob (2012) on a group of secondary school students.

The development of self-concept in adolescent is an ongoing process. Family plays significant role in supporting the adolescent to develop positive or negative self-concept. This is in line with Prophet Muhammad S. A. W. hadith narrated by Abu Hurairah: *No baby is born but upon fitra. It is his parents who make him Jew or a Christian or a Polytheist.*

Usually conflict between adolescent and their family occurred due to personal and choice differences. Positive self-concept can be developed in the adolescent if the conflicts arose is handled wisely. Parents should also employ suitable parenting style depending on the age of their children (Nik Hairi, Azmi, & Ayob (2012) & Othman & Normalina (2010). Therefore it is important for both adolescent and parents to understand each other and plays their role appropriately to achieve better mutual understanding.

LIMITATION

Due to the time constraint, only a group of respondent was selected as the research subject. The subject has same education level, age and attended the same course in their university. Therefore, next researcher is recommended to perform the research with larger group of respondent ranging from all walks of life subject. Future researcher is recommended to compare the parenting style according to age, race, socioeconomic status and courses attended.

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