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# Exploration of Perception of Parenting Styles among Tribal Children



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## Abstract

The study was carried out on a sample of 120 tribal children selected purposively from Gujjar & Bakarwal Hostels & Schools functional in Srinagar, J&K. The primary objectives of the study were to assess perception of parenting styles among tribal children, to compare perceptions of parenting styles by tribal children with respect to various demographic variables and to check correlation between various facets of parenting styles. For assessment of the parenting styles, the tool developed by Muzamil and Shawkat (2023) was adopted. The main findings of the study are authoritative parenting style has significant positive correlation with permissive parenting style ( $r= 0.286, P= 0.01$ ); Authoritarian parenting style has significant positive correlation with neglectful parenting style ( $r= 0.313, P= 0.01$ ) and Permissive Parenting Style has significant positive correlation with neglectful parenting style. Further, male tribal children report their parenting styles to be more permissive and neglectful as compared to female tribal children and the children whose fathers are farmers perceive their parenting styles to be more authoritative than the children whose parents are either labourers, drivers or government employees.

**Key Words:** Authoritative, Authoritarian, Permissive, Neglectful, Parenting Style

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## **Introduction**

Numerous research studies have emphasized the significance of taking cultural context into account when assessing parenting styles and their effects on children. Bornstein & Lansford, (2010) and Harkness et al. (2007) emphasised the need of comprehending parenting styles in the distinct cultural and socioeconomic milieu of varied cultures. Mundau, M., & Chineka, T. S. (2023) conducted research that demonstrated how indigenous cultural beliefs impact parenting practices within tribal groups. In this context this research is carried with the rationale that it will not only enhance the existing academic literature on parenting styles, but also provide valuable insights for culturally sensitive treatments and policies aimed at promoting effective parenting practices within tribal communities. Further the research on parenting styles among tribal cultures can be advantageous for these communities by prompting policy makers to customizing interventions to their specific requirements, resolving inequalities in resource availability, building resilience, and encouraging positive parenting practices. As far as the theoretical underpinnings of parenting are concerned, it is worth mentioning that the way parents raise their children has a significant impact on their mental, emotional, social, and cognitive growth, as well as their future paths in life. Baumrind (1967) defines parenting as a typical variation in the manner in which parents endeavor to regulate their children and encourage them to socialize. Parents' upbringing and child rearing styles are the important factors in changing and stabilizing the behavioral problems of children (Diaz, 2005). In consonance with research carried out by Baumrind (1967) and Maccoby and Martin(1983) the various types of parenting styles are explained below.

### **Authoritative Parenting style**

The authoritative parents exert deliberate control over their child's conduct using logical and problem-solving approaches. Their approach involves encouraging vocal communication, explaining the reasoning for their policy to the children, and seeking objections from the child when they challenge it. They use rationality, authority, and manipulation via systems of control and reinforcement to accomplish their goals, without relying on collective agreement or the personal preferences of the individual child (Baumrind, 1966). Academic research has shown that authoritative parenting is linked to favorable results for teenagers, just as it is for younger children. Furthermore, the establishment of responsive and strong parent-child connections has been particularly crucial in fostering competence in males (Baumrind, 1991).

### **Authoritarian Parenting Style**

An authoritarian parent strives to shape, control, and evaluate the child's behavior and attitudes according to a pre-established set of rules, usually a firm and unchanging standard. In circumstances where the child's actions or perspectives conflict with her own standards of acceptable conduct, the parent favors punitive and severe actions to limit self-will and regards submission as a virtue. They discourage verbal exchange, assuming that the child should heed her word for what is morally correct (Baumrind, 1966). According to Baumrind authoritarian parents attempt to mold, regulate, and assess their children's conduct according to a rigid set of definitive

criteria. Adolescents and young adults who are subjected to the authoritarian method generally exhibit low academic achievement.

### **Permissive Parenting Style**

The permissive parent tries to respond to the child's interests, wants, and activities in a way that is nonpunitive, acknowledging, and validating. Prior to making choices on the family's practices, they engage in direct communication with their kid and provide a comprehensive explanation. Their objective is to employ rationality and manipulation, without resorting to explicit authority, in order to achieve desired goals (Baumrind, 1966).

The permissive parenting style is characterized by a kind and welcoming but emotionally distant attitude. Parents that are too permissive or negligent exert little authority over their children. They provide children with a significant amount of independence at an early stage when they lack the developmental ability to do so, rather than progressively allowing it.

### **Neglectful Parenting Style**

Conceptualized by Maccoby and Martin(1983) neglectful parenting involves lack of responsiveness or indifference towards their children's needs. Neglectful parents allocate little time to establish connections and communication with children and are also undemanding and ineffective in establishing limits and expectations for conduct. These parents often have a dearth of time and energy for their children because of their emotional detachment, depression, and high levels of stress caused by life. Due to this, the children exhibit many issues such as inadequate emotional self-regulation, academic challenges, depression, and antisocial conduct (Aunola, Stattin, & Nurmi, 2000; Schroeder et al., 2010).

### **Objectives**

1. To assess perception of parenting styles among tribal children.
2. To compare perceptions of parenting styles by tribal children with respect to various demographic variables.
3. To check correlation between various facets of parenting styles.

### **Hypotheses**

H<sub>A1</sub> : There is significant correlation between various facets of parenting styles.

H<sub>02</sub> : The perception of parenting styles by tribal children, doesn't differ significantly with respect to variousdemographic variables.

### **Method**

#### **Research Design**

The study is based on a Quantitative Research Design with focus on Comparative &Correlational Aspects.

## Sampling Technique

The sample size for the present study comprised of 120 tribal children selected purposively from Gujjar & Bakarwal Hostel, Bemina Srinagar, J&K & selected Schools of Srinagar, J&K namely Govt. Boys Middle School Tulsi Bagh , Srinagar, J&K; Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Srinagar, J&K; Govt. Girls Middle School Tulsi Bagh , Srinagar, J&K and Scholars School, Srinagar, J&K.

## Tool Used

For assessment of the parenting styles, the tool developed by Muzamil and Shawkat (2023) was adopted. It assesses four parenting styles namely authoritative, authoritarian , permissive and neglectful.

## Data Analysis

The data analysis was carried out using free open-source software - JAMOVI, which is a free open-source alternative to common software packages like SPSS. To achieve the objectives of the study and carry out Hypothesis Testing, Descriptive Analysis, Correlation and Comparative Analysis was carried out following standard protocol.

## Results

**Table 4.1 : Descriptives**

	Authoritative	Authoritarian	Permissive	Neglectful
N	120	120	120	120
Missing	0	0	0	0
Mean	4.13	3.16	3.70	2.47
Standard deviation	0.623	0.770	0.603	1.03
Minimum	2.40	1.20	1.40	1.00
Maximum	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.60

As per the above table the mean score of participants in terms of Authoritative parenting styles is 4.13, that of Authoritarian parenting styles is 3.16, that of Permissive parenting style is 3.70 and that of Neglectful parenting style is 2.47.

**Table 4.2: Showing Frequency Distribution of underlying constructs**

Variables	Low	Medium	High	Total
Authoritative	20	80	20	120
Authoritarian	12	87	21	120
Permissive	12	89	19	120
Neglectful	16	76	22	120

As per the above table; In case of perception of Authoritative parenting style 20 participants have scored in the Low category, 80 participants have scored in the average category and 20 participants have scored in the High category. In case of perception of Authoritarian parenting style 12 participants have scored in the Low category , 87 participants have scored in the average category and 21 participants have scored in the High category. In case of perception of Permissive parenting style 12 participants have scored in the Low category, 89 participants have scored in the average category and 19 participants have scored in the High category. In case of perception of Neglectful parenting style 16 participants have scored in the Low category , 76 participants have scored in the average category and 22 participants have scored in the High category.

**Table No. 4.3 : Showing results of correlation analysis**

		Authoritative	Authoritarian	Permissive	Neglectful
Authoritative	Pearson Correlation		.002	.286 <sup>**</sup>	-.145
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.980	.01	.115
	N		120	120	120
Authoritarian	Pearson Correlation	.02			.313 <sup>**</sup>
	Sig. (2-tailed)			.759	<.001
	N			120	120
Permissive	Pearson Correlation				.240 <sup>**</sup>
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.01			
	N	120			

As per table 4.3 our hypothesis  $H_{A1}$  : There is significant correlation between various facets of parenting styles stands accepted , given that authoritative parenting style (Balanced Parenting) has significant positive correlation with permissive parenting style ( $r= 0.286$ ,  $P= 0.01$ ); Authoritarian parenting style (Parent driven parenting) has significant positive correlation with neglectful parenting style ( $r= 0.313$ ,  $P= 0.01$ ) and Permissive Parenting Style (Child-driven parenting) has significant positive correlation with neglectful parenting style (uninvolved parenting).

**Table 4.4 Independent Samples t-Test with respect to gender.**

		Statistic	df	p	Effect Size
Authoritative	t	-1.60	118	0.113	Cohen's d -0.299
Authoritarian	t	1.77	118	0.079	Cohen's d 0.332
Permissive	T	3.13	118	0.002	Cohen's d 0.586
Neglectful	T	2.50	118	0.014	Cohen's d 0.468

**Table 4.5 Group Descriptives**

	Group	N	Mean	Median	SD	SE
Authoritative	Male	73	4.06	4.20	0.660	0.0773
	Female	47	4.24	4.40	0.548	0.0800
Authoritarian	Male	73	3.26	3.20	0.824	0.0964
	Female	47	3.00	3.00	0.659	0.0961
Permissive	Male	73	3.83	3.80	0.631	0.0739
	Female	47	3.49	3.40	0.495	0.0722
Neglectful	Male	73	2.65	2.60	1.065	0.1246
	Female	47	2.18	2.00	0.921	0.1344

As per table 4.4 and table 4.4, Permissive and neglectful parenting style perceptions differ significantly with respect to gender (  $t= 3.13$ ,  $P=0.002$ ) and ( $t= 2.50$  ,  $P= 0.014$ ) respectively. A comparison of means reveals that male tribal children report their parenting styles to be more permissive and neglectful as compared to female tribal children.

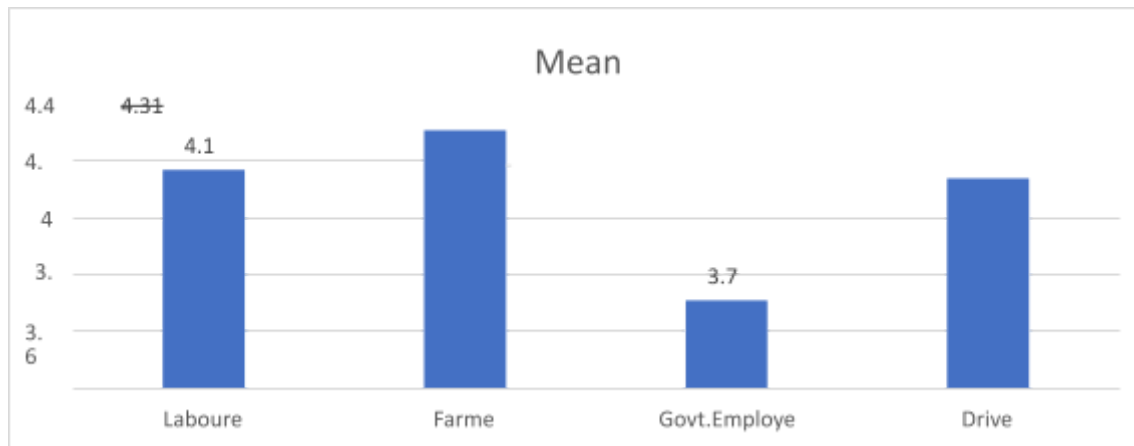
**Table 4.6 One-Way ANOVA (Fisher's)**

	F	df1	df2	P
Authoritative	2.653	3	116	0.052
Authoritarian	0.212	3	116	0.888
Permissive	0.892	3	116	0.448
Neglectful	0.844	3	116	0.472

**Table 4.7 Group Descriptives**

	Father Ocp	N	Mean	SD	SE
Authoritative	Labour	86	4.17	0.569	0.0614
	Farmer	13	4.31	0.575	0.1595
	Govt.Employee	14	3.71	0.803	0.2145
	Driver	7	4.14	0.746	0.2819
Authoritarian	Labour	86	3.13	0.822	0.0887
	Farmer	13	3.31	0.507	0.1407
	Govt.Employee	14	3.14	0.672	0.1797
	Driver	7	3.23	0.795	0.3006
Permissive	Labour	86	3.70	0.565	0.0610
	Farmer	13	3.69	0.551	0.1529
	Govt.Employee	14	3.54	0.882	0.2357
	Driver	7	4.00	0.476	0.1799
Neglectful	Labour	86	2.48	1.063	0.1146
	Farmer	13	2.11	0.940	0.2608
	Govt.Employee	14	2.56	0.853	0.2279
	Driver	7	2.83	1.174	0.4439

**Figure 4.1. Graphical Representation of mean scores on perception of authoritative parenting style with respect to father’s occupation.**



As per the table 4.6, table 4.7 and figure 4.1, perceptions of authoritative parenting style by tribal children differs significantly with respect to their fathers occupation (  $F= 2.653$  and  $P= 0.05$ ), a comparison of means revealsthat the children whose fathers are farmers perceive their parenting styles to be more authoritative than the children whose parents are either labourers, drivers or government employees. Further the children whose fathers are labourers perceive their parenting styles to be more authoritative than those whose fathers are either government employees or drivers.Lastly children whose fathers are drivers perceive authoritative parenting style to a more extent than childrenwhose fathers are government employees. On the basis of results of comparative analysis, our hypothesis H02 : The perception of parenting styles by tribal children, doesn’t differ significantly with respect to various demographic variables, stands rejected.

**Discussion**

As far as results of descriptive analysis are concerned, most of the tribal children score average on the perceptions of various parenting styles , however a significant number scores in low and high categories. The participants scoring in high category in case of perception of authoritarian

, permissive and neglectful parenting styles are a matter of concern for policy makers because, this could potentially have a detrimental effect on tribal children's development and well-being. Studies have demonstrated that various approaches of parenting can have enduring impacts on the cognitive, emotional, and social growth of children. Thus, policymakers should take note of high scores in the assessment of these parenting styles, as they serve as a warning sign for possible threats to the well-being and future achievements of tribal children. Interventions and support programs that aim to promote positive and successful parenting practices can help reduce these risksand assure improved outcomes for tribal children who are growing up in such homes.

As per the results of correlation analysis, there is significant correlation between various facets of parenting styles given that authoritative parenting style (Balanced Parenting) has significant positive correlation with permissive parenting style ( $r= 0.286$ ,  $P= 0.01$ ); Authoritarian parenting style (Parent driven parenting) has significant positive correlation with neglectful parenting style ( $r= 0.313$ ,  $P= 0.01$ ) and Permissive Parenting Style (Child-driven parenting) has significant positive correlation with neglectful parenting style (uninvolved parenting).

The strong link between authoritative (balanced) and permissive (child-driven) parenting styles is consistent with prior research that emphasizes the similarities between both approaches. Research conducted by Baumrind (1991) has indicated that both authoritarian and permissive parenting styles exhibit elevated levels of parental responsiveness, warmth, and support. The common focus on fostering and providing emotional support through parenting practices may explain the found favorable relationship between these styles.

Likewise, the strong association between authoritarian (parent-driven) and neglectful (uninvolved) parenting styles aligns with research that highlights the absence of parental attentiveness and affection in both of these styles. The research conducted by Arora, M. J., & Ramdeobaba, S. (2014) has indicated the adverse effects of insufficient parental affection and engagement. These effects may account for the found positive relationship between authoritarian and neglectful parenting styles.

The strong positive correlation shown between permissive (child-driven) and neglectful (uninvolved) parenting styles also aligns with the results of prior studies. Both of these parenting styles are defined by minimal degrees of control and organization, as well as restricted parental engagement. The research conducted by Smetana (1995) has examined the possible harmful consequences of permissive and neglectful parenting on children's development. The observed positive correlation between these parenting styles highlights the similarities in their shared absence of proper structure and guidance. In summary, our findings emphasize the interrelatedness of parenting styles and emphasize the significance of taking into account the intricate relationships among various parenting styles. Gaining insight into the connections between different styles might provide valuable information for implementing focused interventions and support techniques that attempt to encourage more favorable and efficient parenting approaches. By acknowledging the connections between different parenting styles, policymakers and practitioners may create comprehensive strategies to meet the varied needs of families and children, eventually promoting healthier developmental outcomes.

The results of comparative analysis revealed that male tribal children report their parenting styles to be more permissive and neglectful as compared to female tribal children. This may be attributed to the influence of traditional gender expectations and duties within the tribal society. According to a study conducted by Chen and Kaplan (2001), cultural norms and gender-specific socialization techniques have the ability to influence how children perceive

parenting activities. Traditional proverbs like *"Spare the rod and spoil the child"* embody conventional notions about male conduct and discipline, potentially influencing the observed variations in parenting approaches between male and female tribe children. Further it was found that the children whose fathers are farmers perceive their parenting styles to be more authoritative than the children whose parents are either labourers, drivers or government employees; the children whose fathers are labourers perceive their parenting styles to be more authoritative than those whose fathers are either government employees or drivers ; Lastly children whose fathers are drivers perceive authoritative parenting style to a more extent than children whose fathers are government employees. These discrepancies in children's interpretations of authoritative parenting techniques, as influenced by their parent's employment, correspond with existing studies on the impact of socio-economic factors on parenting approaches. Research has indicated that the occupation of parents can influence the way they parent their children and the overall dynamics within the family. Conger and Donnellan's (2007) emphasize the influence of socio-economic factors on family functioning, with occupation being a significant determining factor. The results indicating that children of farmers tend to perceive more authoritative parenting are consistent with previous research indicating that vocations characterized by stability, autonomy, and control are conducive to the development of authoritative parenting styles. In contrast children of labourers and drivers may experience less authoritative parenting, potentially as a result of variables like employment uncertainty or restricted influence over work circumstances.

### **Recommendations**

On the basis of the findings of the study the recommendations by the researchers of present study are presented herewith.

**Customized Assistance Initiatives:** We need to create specialized assistance initiatives designed to cater to the many parenting approaches prevalent in tribal communities, with a particular emphasis on meeting the specific requirements of children who are exposed to different parenting styles.

**Parenting Education:** We need to establish parenting education programs tailored to the diverse parenting styles prevalent in tribal communities.

**Intervention Strategies:** We need to develop intervention strategies to offer support and direction to parents who engage in neglectful or authoritarian parenting styles, with the goal of enhancing their comprehension of effective parenting strategies.

**Psychosocial Support:** We need to implement psychosocial support programs to cater to the emotional and psychological needs of tribal children who may encounter diverse family environments.

**Community Engagement:** We need to foster community participation in advocating for constructive parenting styles among tribal population.

**Limitations:**

The researchers have opted for a small sample size given the time constraints; this may have an impact on the generalizability of the findings. Moreover, the dependence on a quantitative

research design only may have limited the extent to which we could comprehend the intricacies in parenting practices in context of tribal cultures.

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