



Influence of Parenting Style on Children's Behavior in Southern Punjab, Pakistan

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<p>Keywords:</p> <p>Parenting Style, Children's Behaviors, Qualitative Study, Thematic Analysis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ABSTRACT</p> <p><i>This study explored the influence of the parenting styles of the parents on the behavior of the children from southern Punjab, Pakistan, through a qualitative research design. A purposive sampling technique was used, and a semi-structured interview protocol was developed for data collection. The five parents (mothers) whose parenting styles had to be measured were from different backgrounds and socio-economic statuses. The participants were approached through personal sources and contacts after complying with the complete research ethics. The validity of the instrument was examined through the expert opinion (N = 03), while the reliability of the instrument was assured through the extensive literature that addressed parenting styles. The data were analyzed through thematic analysis by finding three major themes that emerged from the categories of interviews, which are parents' behavior, ineffective parenting, and reasons for leaving educational institutes. The findings of the study revealed that authoritative and permissive parenting styles are used by most parents (mothers). Additionally, this study concluded that delinquent behaviors in children are a result of various factors of domestic life, e.g., false beliefs of the parents, low self-esteem of the children, mystification by parents, and communication gaps between parents and the children. The study recommends that regular training for parents on improving the quality of positive parenting styles should be conducted through the collaboration of public and private partnerships. Moreover, community-based rehabilitation centres must be established to raise awareness of parenting styles.</i></p>
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1 Introduction

In society, the sociocultural variables affect the parenting style (Sahithya et al., 2019) while the teachers' low qualification affects the quality of education (Khan & Kamran, 2021; Naz et al., 2021). Quality of life can be assessed through different measures (Batool et al., 2021), one such is parenting style. Parents interact with their children in particular contexts (Darling & Steinberg, 2017; Gorostiaga et al., 2019). To guarantee that their child's behavior is proper, parents may monitor or supervise them (Akcinar & Baydar, 2014; Barber et al., 1994). The boundaries and guidelines that parents set in this area can help the child's psychosocial development.

Similarly, parental warmth, encouragement, and acceptance are linked with the well-being of children (Kumari & Kang, 2017; Lakshmi & Arora, 2006; Rai, 2008; Rai et al., 2009; Thergaonkar & Wadkar, 2007). These elements in parents lower the level of children's substance abuse and aggressive behavior, while decreased warmth anticipated conduct disorder in children (Kumari & Kang, 2017; Rai, 2008; Rai et al., 2009; Sahithya et al., 2019; Sharma & Sandhu, 2006). The child's ability to adjust, however, may be hampered by harsh control and physical or verbal punishment by parents. This type of control also tends to anticipate difficulties and anxiety (Sharma & Sandhu, 2006).

According to Johal and Kaur (2015), boys who lacked control were more likely to be aggressive than girls who had high levels of control. This implies that greater freedom, independence, and democracy may increase violence in boys whereas a greater absence of these attributes may increase aggression in females. Boys who express aggression through impulsive acts may control their impulsivity with less freedom, while girls who usually express aggression indirectly may become directly under excessive control (Sahithya et al., 2019).

Regarding psychological control, mentions that parents try to sway their child's emotions and thinking by instilling feelings of shame or guilt, or by using emotional blackmail or overprotectiveness (Barber, 1996, 2002). The definition of parental warmth is that it is "the sense of positive regard expressed by the parent towards the adolescent, pleasant interactions shared between parent and adolescent, or parental involvement in the adolescent's activities" (Yap et al., 2014).

A child raised by a permissive parent is likely to receive uneven discipline because they are raised in an environment that is generally warm but unrestrictive. Authoritative parenting, on the other hand, emphasizes open communication and respect for others while combining warmth with firm expectations and boundaries. According to numerous studies (Jadon & Tripathi, 2017; Moghaddam et al., 2017; Singh, 2017), authoritative parenting has a positive and favorable effect on young people's self-esteem whereas authoritarian parenting has a detrimental effect.

Spanish children exhibited the lowest self-esteem when subjected to the authoritarian parenting style, whereas those under the permissive (indulgent) parenting approach demonstrated higher self-esteem levels (Martinez et al., 2007). Brazilian adolescents underwent an assessment of multidimensional self-esteem, with their parenting styles categorized into authoritative, authoritarian, permissive (indulgent), and neglectful. The adolescents raised in authoritative and permissive (indulgent) parenting environments displayed nearly identical scores on the multidimensional self-esteem scale. Conversely, those raised with authoritarian and neglectful parenting styles exhibited the lowest scores across all dimensions of the self-esteem scale (Martinez et al., 2007).

Further investigation into how parenting styles affect the self-esteem of Australian children revealed that children who were raised in households with authoritative parenting styles displayed higher self-esteem scores in comparison to those subjected to authoritarian

parenting styles (Wolff, 2000). No significant differences in self-esteem were observed for permissive (indulgent) and mismatched parenting styles.

Indigenous research was conducted in Rawalpindi recently. It explored how perceived parenting styles impact adolescent self-esteem in public and private secondary schools. It considered demographic factors like age, gender, and family income. Findings revealed that parenting styles influence self-esteem, and demographic factors play a role (Azhar & Dad, 2023).

Another study investigated the role of parenting styles in the depression of adolescents in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The analysis revealed a significant association between parenting style and depression, with authoritative parenting linked to lower depression levels. Family income also played a significant role. Parenting and socioeconomic factors influence adolescent mental health (Prativa & Deeba, 2019). Another study found that parental styles significantly influence adolescents' autonomy, particularly concerning their health decisions. The research highlights the pivotal role of parenting styles in shaping adolescents' ability to make independent choices about their sexual health (Yengo, 2023).

A study in mainland China surveyed 930 families, including parents and adolescents, to examine the connection between parenting style (quality) and parental involvement (quantity) in the psychological well-being of adolescents. Four distinct parenting profiles emerged: rejecting involvement, rejecting non-involvement, neglecting non-involvement, and warm involvement (52.6%). Adolescents in the rejecting involvement group fared the worst while those in the warm involvement group had the best psychological well-being. This study discussed the significance of considering both parenting styles and parental involvement in mental health interventions for adolescents (Ren et al., 2023). Another study focused on students aged 12 to 14 years from West Java, as its target population. Results explained that the supportive parenting style of mothers predicts oral hygiene of kids, while a parenting style that is non-supportive does not influence the oral hygiene behavior of adolescents (Annisa et al., 2023).

A recent investigation on how parenting styles affect adolescent happiness, considered factors like educational level, socioeconomic status, and working status. It involved 200 parents and 100 adolescents from 20 schools in Lucknow city. The findings revealed that educational level and working status significantly influenced adolescent happiness, while socioeconomic status did not (Kushwaha et al., 2023).

The direction and strength of relationships between parenting practices and child outcomes differ by culture (Chao, 1994; Gracia et al., 2008) that's why we are saying that Pakistani culture should also be explored. Due to different cultural norms, parenting approaches are also different and have different effects on children depending on the cultural group (Huang et al., 2017).

According to authors (Darling & Steinberg, 2017; Jadon & Tripathi, 2017; Moghaddam et al., 2017; Pinquart & Gerke, 2019), relationships between parenting styles and outcomes of the children are due to the effect of parenting styles. Parenting practices have cross-lagged impacts on changes in externalizing and internalizing symptoms (M. Pinquart, 2017; Martin Pinquart, 2017).

The findings of meta-analysis (Pinquart & Kauser, 2018) revealed that parenting practices/ styles and children's outcomes are largely cross-culturally universal, as evidenced by the fact that authoritative parenting meets the needs of adolescents and children on a general level while authoritarian parenting does not (Baumrind, 2013; Steinberg, 2001).

Uninvolved or neglected parenting has been linked to antisocial behavior, an increase in internalizing issues, an increased risk of suicidal attempts, and more childhood depressive

symptoms (Donath et al., 2014; Luyckx et al., 2011; Mannarini et al., 2018; Sahithya et al., 2019; Simons et al., 2002; Zaborskis et al., 2016).

1.1 Juvenile delinquency and parenting style

In actuality, delinquency has typically been viewed as an attribute rather than a variable. Based on official judgment, individuals and groups are classified as either delinquent or non-delinquent (Nye & Short, 1957). Amran and Basri (2020) claim that parenting practices impact juvenile delinquency. The findings show a connection between an authoritarian parenting style and adolescent criminality. According to Sarwar (2016), children with authoritarian parents tend to act out and rebel. However, less strict parenting methods may affect adolescent delinquency. This study found a connection between teenage anti-sociality and an authoritarian parenting style (Devi & Bhuvaneshwari, 2023).

Shek and Zhu (2019) conducted a study in Hong Kong, and the findings indicate that lesser delinquency is predicted by less parental control, whereas higher delinquency is predicted by greater control. Parental psychological control failed as well. Initial criminal behavior is predicted by the parent-child relationship. According to the findings of the study parent-child connections and parenting are predictive of teenage criminality or delinquency.

Tapia et al. (2018) examined how parenting styles impact delinquency. Statistics demonstrate that authoritarian mothers and fathers both have an impact on delinquency. Permissive parenting had no impact on delinquency in children of permissive mothers. The findings indicate that, compared to women, fathers' parenting strategies had a greater influence on delinquency. According to the study, fathers who are inattentive and permissive tend to have children who act out and are delinquent. Girls are relatively less likely to be delinquent than boys, regardless of parental behavior.

Xiong et al. (2020) conducted a study on authoritative parenting, criminal victimization, and juvenile delinquency. Two surveys were conducted using a probability sample of 1066 teenagers. According to the findings, authoritative parenting lowers crime victimization and delinquency.

Augustyn et al. (2019) results showed a strong link between victimization and abuse infliction. In this relationship, the delinquency of adolescents and two precocious transitions (school dropout and independent living), also the accumulation of precocious changes and problem behaviors play the role of mediators. The relationship between the types of maltreatment and eventual perpetration is determined by the maltreatment experiences of adolescents (Devi & Bhuvaneshwari, 2023).

The moderating role of personal qualities between teenage victimization and delinquent behavior was investigated. According to the findings, victimization in the family and interpersonal contexts was much more predictive of delinquent behavior than victimization in the community (Yu & Chan, 2019).

1.2 Research Gap

The study's identification of a research gap concerns the scant investigation of the particular cultural, socioeconomic, and regional factors influencing parenting styles in southern Punjab, Pakistan, and how those styles, in turn, affect the behavior of children. Although the study indicated that authoritative and permissive parenting styles were most common, more research is still needed to fully comprehend how these parenting philosophies interact with the cultural and societal norms of this particular area. Furthermore, although several domestic factors have been connected to delinquent behaviors in children, a more nuanced analysis of how these factors interact—for example, the degree to which parenting styles are influenced by socioeconomic status or the significance of community perceptions—would paint a more complete picture. In addition, additional research is necessary to confirm the relevance and efficacy of suggested interventions, especially

community-based rehabilitation centers, and parental training programs, given the distinct socio-cultural environment of southern Punjab.

1.3 Research Problem

There is a strong correlation between the parenting styles that mothers in southern Punjab, Pakistan, choose and the behavioral outcomes that their children exhibit. Parents come from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds and hold a range of personal beliefs, yet authoritative and permissive parenting styles still have an obvious effect on children's behavior. Nonetheless, there is a documented rise in juvenile delinquent behavior, which may be related to household variables like parents' false beliefs, kids' low self-esteem, parents' confusion, and a clear communication breakdown between parents and kids. To promote healthier child development, these factors point to the urgent need for interventions that can improve positive parenting techniques and close the current communication gaps.

1.4 Research Objectives

The main goals are to find out which parenting philosophies are most common among mothers in southern Punjab, how these philosophies affect the behaviors of their kids, like delinquency, and what the root causes of ineffective parenting and kids dropping out of school are.

1.5 Research Significance

This study is important because it clarifies the connection between parenting practices and kids' behaviors in a particular cultural setting, offering insights that can direct interventions. The findings offer valuable information for policymakers, educators, and community stakeholders to develop training programs for enhancing positive parenting practices and establishing community-based rehabilitation centers to address parenting challenges effectively.

2 Method

2.1 Research Design

In the current study, a qualitative research design was employed. We conducted in-depth interviews with five mothers. Yin (2009) elaborates that in the qualitative method, the researchers lack authority or influence over the unfolding events and the main focus is on "a contemporary phenomenon within some real-life context" (p.1). Since we intended to look deeply into the phenomenon (parenting styles), therefore, we used the case study of qualitative research. In this scenario, it is expected that parenting styles adopted by parents dealing with the challenges of their children's negative behavior will yield significant outcomes within the Pakistani context. The authors conducted in-depth interviews with parents (5 mothers only) in southern Punjab, Pakistan. For instance, Mother B had a 15-year-old son who had committed multiple minor crimes at home.

2.2 Procedure

After selecting the research problem, the relevant literature was reviewed and the objectives of the study were established with appropriate research questions. A self-developed interview protocol was administered after the completion of the validation process from experts (N=3). The participants were approached through personal contacts and resources after three weeks due to strict social limitations and poor family backgrounds. The participants of the study were the mothers (N=05) including literate (N=02) and illiterate (N=03). The participants belonged to two cities in southern Punjab i.e., Multan (N=01) and Dera Ghazi Khan (N=04). As a part of research ethics, confidentiality was ensured for the participants. The consent letters were signed by the participants for the study as per research ethics. Data were collected through a purposive sampling technique. Purposive sampling is the deliberate selection of particular people or groups according to predefined standards pertinent to the study goals. Researchers identify and contact potential participants who meet

specific qualifications after first defining the desired characteristics or criteria. The purpose of this methodical approach is to collect perspectives from people who can offer insightful and pertinent data to answer the research questions. After the interviews and transcription of collected data, an open coding technique was used to develop categories and sub-themes that helped the researchers to generate three major themes to reach towards findings and conclusion of the study.

3 Findings

This section carries a thorough analysis of emerging themes from our research, revealing patterns' insights. It serves as a critical link between data collection and our research's ultimate conclusion. For analysis, the method of themes and coding was used. Coding in qualitative research is a phrase or word that symbolically assigns essence-capturing and salient features for data (Saldaña, 2021). We used the codes that appeared in the literature e.g., irritating, cursing, and beating define authoritarian style whereas words like question, converse, and recognize show authoritative parenting style. On the opposite, words like neglect, say nothing, lenient, etc. show the permissive parenting style. From our interviews, the following themes developed.

Research (Interview) Question 1: What is your parenting style to your children? (Give a detailed account).

3.1 Parents' Behavior

This theme has emerged from the categories of authoritative and permissive behaviors. This theme reflects the behaviors of the parents as part of parenting styles. The parenting style of the parents is highlighted through the perception of the parents that was reflected through the interview transcription of the parents' responses. The personalities and behaviors of the children are determined through parenting (Lari, 2023).

3.1.1 Authoritative style

In this sub-theme, an authoritative style has emerged from the responses of the participants. Parents admitted the use of an authoritative style towards their children. For example, one of the participants expressed *"I try to remain a little strict at home with my children because they take negative advantage of their father's absence because he is working as a labor outside the country."*

One mother said *"My husband shows angriness. I tried to remain humble."*

3.1.2 Permissive style

This sub-theme reflects the permissive behavior of the parents towards their children. The category describes the main context of the participants' responses which contains the mothers' approach to dealing with their children by avoiding the children on their wrongdoings and showing permissiveness in certain situations. For example, one of the participants narrated *"My husband never asked the children what they are doing and why they are doing it. I did the same at home, especially with my son, who remains outside the home without any information."*

Research (Interview) Question 2: Has your parenting style influenced any of your children's behavior? Explain.

3.2 Ineffective Parenting

This theme reflects the influence of the parenting style on the lives of children who develop behaviors. This theme appears from the categories of poverty, denial, lethargic routine, and irresponsibility. Kong and Yasmin (2022) found that parents' educational efficacy and educational level were related to ECE (early childhood education) because parental involvement with children at home matters.

3.2.1 Poverty

This sub-theme influences the parenting style towards children due to the factor of inflation. The participants expressed that living in small houses made their children develop delinquent behaviors in them. For example, one of the participants stated *“Our source of income is not good to fulfill the basic needs of our children. For this reason, my both sons exhibit rigid behaviors with us and they denied to attend their education.”*

3.2.2 Denial

This sub-theme shows the parents' responses about the influence of their parenting style on their children. The participants responded that there is no such role of their parenting style in developing delinquent behaviors in children. For example, one of the participants expressed *“I don't think that me and my husband ever speak harshly to our son. We have no idea how our son eloped from the house for a few days.”*

3.2.3 Lethargic Routine

This sub-theme develops delinquent behaviors in the children. Lethargic routine makes parents uninvolved due to the lockdown during COVID-19. The participants further stated that there was no activity at home for the children. For example, one of the participants described that *“Lockdown affected my child. He is not social due to no activities. He used his cell phone the most.”* One more participant stated, *“Our son was very brilliant till matriculation, but he lost his concentration in his studies during the pandemic time in 2019 when he had no such effective work to do.”*

3.2.4 Irresponsibility

This sub-theme develops delinquent behaviors in their children. The participants narrated that they were not able to perform the responsibility of actual parenting. These participants also stated that they had no idea how to fulfill their responsibility of being parents to their children. For example, one of the participants expressed *“My son left the studies without any reason because he was living with his uncle who was a salesman on daily wages. My husband never took responsibility for his children. I am working in people's houses to earn a livelihood all day long, then how can I spare time for my out-of-home son.”*

Research (Interview) Question 3: Describe if your parenting style has made your child leave the school/college/ University where he/ she wanted but you made your wish instead of your child's wish.

3.3 Reasons for Leaving Educational Institutes

This theme has emerged from false beliefs, low self-esteem, mystification, and the communication gap that parents have with their children. The theme highlighted the reasons for leaving schools or colleges due to the involvement of parents. The findings of previous studies on parenting styles reflected numerous outcomes for the children (Lin et al., 2023).

3.3.1 False Beliefs

The sub-theme emerged based on the educational level that parents hold. Uneducated parents with their views about education made their children leave schools and colleges. For example, one of the participants highlighted *“My husband always said that when I am not educated how it is possible that my children could study.”*

3.3.2 Low Self-Esteem

This sub-theme indicates the low self-esteem of children as a result of parenting style. The participants expressed that their children are good at home but not at school because they forget everything about their homework in front of their teachers. For example, one of the participants reported *“My son escaped from school because he could not be able to speak in front of the teachers while telling the learned text.”*

3.3.3 Mystification

The sub-theme reflects the mystification of the parents towards the children while selecting the academic directions after the completion of secondary school education. The participants responded that they selected to put their children in the medical field but later on, their children refused to study and involved themselves in some kind of wrongdoing because they wanted to join computer education. For example, one of the participants stated *“My son uses his cell phone the whole day but never tries to study his course books. If I say to study then he goes (runs) out of home for much time and remains absent from home.”*

3.3.4 Communication Gap

The sub-theme depicts the communication gap as a major factor in developing delinquent behaviors among children. The category shows that parents of children remain non-communicative to their children at the time when they need guidance and counseling in their early lives. For example, one of the participants narrated *“My husband had no interest in the children’s activities. I thought that my son would be able to understand everything on his own”*.

This study found that parents of children used authoritative and permissive parenting styles with the children, the most. Parenting styles influence delinquent behaviors in children due to factors like poverty, denial of the parents, the lethargic routine of the children, and irresponsible behavior of the parents. This study also found that there are various reasons for leaving schools or colleges due to parenting styles that parents hold with their children e.g., false beliefs of the parents, low self-esteem of the children, mystification by parents, and communication gap between parents and the children.

4 Discussion

Parenting is the way forward for any child to get success in life. Parenting styles constitute a comprehensive framework that encompasses multiple aspects of interactions between parents and their children. The objective of this study was to find out how parenting styles affect the behavior of children. Interviews of parents (mothers) were conducted and thematic analysis was done to extract themes. As mothers spend more time with kids, their understandings and behaviors play significant roles in the upbringing of children. The ideal parenting style can vary depending on a child's personality and needs, and a balanced approach that combines elements of authoritative parenting is often recommended for fostering a healthy and supportive parent-child relationship.

The first research question asked mothers to elaborate on their perspective; and how they would define the parenting style they use. This can involve considerations of a permissive style, an authoritarian style, an authoritative style, and/ or an uninvolved style of parenting. From interviews, this study found the frequent use of authoritative and permissive parenting approaches by parents. The reasons are guiding the children in the right direction or ignoring the children due to a busy schedule of fulfilling domestic needs. The most effective is authoritative parenting to help with personal responsibilities and development (Bickley, 2022). Instead of concentrating solely on one parenting style, Vasiou et al. (2023) adopted parenting styles as a multidimensional and latent construct that includes various aspects of parenting. In an authoritarian upbringing, the probability of developing behavioral problems is commonly increased in children due to lacking warmth, inconsistent discipline, and harshness.

Next research questions asked parents their viewpoint by explaining any parenting styles they believe may have impacted their children's involvement in delinquent behaviors. A major theme was the ineffective parenting style of the parents. It has subthemes of poverty, denial, lethargic routine, and responsibility. These factors influence the lives of the children. Parenting style patterns may change due to poverty and other problematic situations for the parents. This is due to the parent's work schedule to cope with the basic needs i.e., shelter,

food, clothing, and other necessities of their children. A study by Prativa and Deeba (2019) is in line with this stating that the significance of family income is notable in this context. Additionally, the denial and irresponsible behaviors of the parents may make the children disrespectful at home. Realizing own parenting style is the best without any catharsis, and showing immaturity in dealing with the children may produce delinquency in the children. A researcher explained that in early childhood, the parent-child relationship is typically characterized as more hierarchical and asymmetrical. However, as the child transitions into adolescence, this dynamic tends to shift towards a more symmetrical relationship, with the child gradually assuming more responsibilities (Baumrind, 2012). So, parents should focus on this transitory period and put some responsibility on kids to train them and psychologically it relieves them to share responsibility. Kuppens and Ceulemans (2019) recognized the joint parenting styles as a natural manifestation. The combined behaviors of both parents have an impact on children in two-parent families (Martin et al., 2007).

The last research question was to provide insight into whether their parenting style influenced a child's decision to leave the school, college, or university they initially desired, even if it conflicted with their preferences. One theme emerged with four sub-themes discussing false beliefs of the parents, low self-esteem of the children, mystification by parents, and the communication gap between parents and the children. This study reflects that there are numerous reasons for leaving the school. Delinquent behavior can take many different forms when there is a communication breakdown between parents and their kids. Lack of communication can cause children to feel unheard or misunderstood, which may lead them to look for attention and validation from other sources. This could result in them joining dangerous or negative peer groups. Furthermore, a lack of open communication can exacerbate emotional distress and hinder the development of healthy emotions by creating feelings of isolation. Children may internalize misunderstandings or misconceptions as a result of this disconnect, further severing their ties to parental support and guidance. As a result, in the absence of efficient channels for communication, kids might turn to criminal activity as a way to vent their frustrations, demand attention, or gain autonomy. This emphasizes how important communication is. When parents do not understand the interest of their children due to authoritative parenting and force their children to study unfavorable subjects then it becomes the major reason for developing delinquent behaviors among children. Relationships with teachers may also be one of the reasons for avoiding or leaving school. The mindfulness of teachers is necessary for a better experience (Javaid et al., 2023). Classroom engagement may improve learning attitudes as well (Ramzan et al., 2023). If social support is provided to students, it improves their social adjustment (Maqbool et al., 2021). A study argues that parents should take into consideration the choices of children to avoid making them rebellious (Scheiwe, 2004) as indicated as a risk factor in the current study. There are studies on parenting styles that are associated with various styles of social skills for children (Rinaldi & Howe, 2012), cognitive skills (Rudasill et al., 2013), problematic behaviors (Braza et al., 2015), or even initial skills of academia. Parenting and socioeconomic factors play crucial roles in the mental well-being of adolescents (Prativa & Deeba, 2019).

The long-lasting effects of parenting methods have been extensively studied and documented (Coe et al., 2020; Sandler et al., 2015). Research indicates that these styles tend to be unintentionally inherited by future generations. Assessments are vital, as parental approaches may evolve to become more suitable over time. This study gives support to schools, adolescents, and parents, as it can guide educators in creating supportive learning environments and help adolescents understand the factors affecting their delinquent behaviors. Parents should use these insights to improve their parenting styles.

5 Conclusion, Limitations, and Recommendations

To conclude this study, the role of parents with effective parenting styles with their children is much more significant. In this study, the two frequently used parenting styles are authoritative and permissive (indulgent) which are administered by the parents to deal with their children. Additionally, this study concluded that delinquent behaviors in children are a result of various factors of domestic life e.g., false beliefs of the parents, low self-esteem of the children, mystification by parents, and communication gap between parents and the children. If parents are provided with appropriate training and adequate counseling services then the delinquent behaviors of the children may be reduced. Moreover, good parenting skill is based on the firm attainment of basic needs of life by the parents to support the children psychologically, financially, educationally, and morally. In this way, the delinquent behaviors can be treated to make the children an asset, not a liability.

This study was only limited to the five mothers who were approached through a purposive sampling technique. The study only displays the perception of the five mothers in a specific region therefore, the results cannot be generalized over the broader population in Pakistan. Although the results are limited still, they can give insights to the researchers and can contribute to the body of literature.

The study's conclusions indicate that to address the parenting dynamics that have been noted in southern Punjab, Pakistan, two main interventions are essential. First off, it is essential to put in place a thorough parental training program because the parenting philosophies that were most frequently identified were permissive and authoritative. This program should emphasize effective communication, setting reasonable boundaries for their kids, and providing parents with the skills and information they need to promote positive parenting practices. Second, given the elements that contribute to delinquent behavior—such as a communication gap and erroneous parental beliefs—it is advised that community-based rehabilitation centers be established. These facilities can be used as forums to raise children's self-esteem, inform parents about the harmful consequences of false beliefs, and encourage candid conversations between parents and their children. It is recommended to psychoeducate. Role-playing and talk therapy can be beneficial. Studies in the future should be conducted by enthusiastic researchers using quantitative and mixed-method approaches to explore more about the same phenomenon.

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