

Parenting Pattern of Students of Bangla and English Medium School of a Selected Area of Dhaka City.

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Abstract

Background: Parenting plays an immense role on almost all domains of life of the child(ren). Out of total 160 million people of Bangladesh almost 52 million are child and adolescent. However, fewer attempts have been identified in Bangladesh exploring parenting type and impact on the children. **Objectives:** To assess the parenting pattern of students of Bangla and English medium school of a selected area of Dhaka city. **Materials & Methods:** A cross-sectional study was carried out in the purposively selected schools of Dhaka city. 151 responses were collected from the parents by convenient sampling technique. Data were collected by using semi-structured instrument comprised of a sociodemographic part and Bangla Parenting Style and Dimension Questionnaire (PSDQ-Bangla) after taking informed written consent from the parents. **Results:** The mean (\pm SD) age of the parents was 40.76 (\pm 5.83) years ranging from 30 to 58 years. About two-thirds (63.58%) of the parents had child in Bangla medium school, and more than two-third (68.87%) were mother. About 97% of parents had an authoritative parenting style, followed by permissive and authoritarian. The analysis revealed that mothers were significantly more authoritative than fathers ($p=.001$). No other associations between parenting style and sex of the child, medium of education, and family structure were noted. **Conclusions:** This study assessed parenting style in Bangla and English medium schools of Dhaka city and revealed a high proportion of authoritative parenting which may need cautious interpretation while generalizing the study result. Further studies are necessitated to generalize the study findings.

Keywords: Parenting style, Bangladesh, Bangla medium, English medium, School.

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Introduction

Parenting is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Parenting pattern indicates a general child rearing model that characterizes parents' attitudes toward their child.¹ It has been defined as a universal construct reflecting the overall emotional tone of the parent-child relationship.² Baumrind (1966) identified three different parenting patterns namely authoritarian, authoritative and permissive.³ Maccoby and Martin (1983), mentioned that parenting styles arise from the crossing of two different dimensions i.e. demandingness/control and responsiveness/warmth.^{4,5} Categorizing parents according to whether they are high or low on parental demandingness and responsiveness creates a typology of four parenting styles namely

authoritative, authoritarian, indulgent, and uninvolved.⁵

Authoritative parents are both demanding and responsive; warm and nurturing toward adolescent.⁴ They want that their children to be assertive as well as socially responsible and self-regulated as well as cooperative.^{1,6} Authoritarian parents are highly demanding and directive, but not responsive.⁴ The authoritarian parents place firm limits and control on adolescents and allows little verbal exchange, results in socially incompetent behavior, they are high in control and low in responsiveness. They connect love with success and are not as nurturing as the other two styles of parenting.⁷ Permissive parents (also referred to as indulgent parents or nondirective) are more responsive than demanding. They give high level of freedom to their children and do not restrict their behavior unless it physically harms them.⁸ The uninvolved or neglecting parent can be categorized by not displaying the following qualities: warmth, confrontational, supervisory, consistency in disciplining or clear communicator style.⁹ These

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parents are low in both responsiveness and demandingness.

Researchers have assumed parents to have critical influences on children's behavioral, emotional, personality, and cognitive development for over a century.¹⁰ Inadequate parenting based on harsh punishment and very little positive reinforcement (authoritarian parenting) has been linked with behavioral and conduct disorders, negative social adjustment with physical aggression.⁸ Adolescents with authoritative parents tend to achieve higher grades, be more self-reliant, less anxious, less likely to engage in delinquent behaviors, and more likely to adopt positive coping strategies than are adolescents with parents using other rearing styles.^{3,11,12}

Among the parenting styles, authoritative parenting is believed to be an adequate parenting style, because it supports a balanced use of warmth and control. All other parenting styles, such as authoritarian, permissive-indulgent, and neglectful-uninvolved, are tagged as inadequate, because they either lack warmth but with too much control, as with the authoritarian style; or they lack control yet with excessive warmth, or they lack both warmth and control, as with the neglectful-uninvolved style.⁸ Parenting behavior is deeply influenced by culture which decides the limits of behavior that to be controlled and praised.¹³

Bangladesh is graduated from least developed country to developing country and education sector is also improving surprisingly, but parenting style have received little attention and research interest. Out of total 160 million people of Bangladesh almost 52 million are child and adolescent as they will be the leading part of our country that they need special attention while nurturing with acceptable pattern of interaction between parents and children.¹⁴ Therefore, it's becoming essential for our parents to be aware about parenting pattern. Moreover, 50% adult psychiatric disorder start at childhood and inadequate parenting style may be the one of the risk factors. Different streams of education system, nowadays Bangla

and English medium are two major prevailing education system in Bangladesh.¹⁵ In view of these two groups there may have socio-economical and educational differences. Therefore, we aimed to assess the parenting pattern of students of Bangla and English medium school of a selected area of Dhaka city.

Materials and Methods

This was a cross-sectional study carried out in the purposively selected two schools of Dhaka city and study conducted at National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital (NIMH), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka from 2021 and 2022. We selected two schools i.e. Willes Little Flower School and College and Kids Tutorial School. First one is Bangla and English medium school and later one is English medium school. Total 151 responses were collected from the parents having children of 6-16 years by convenient sampling technique. Data were collected by using semi-structured instrument comprised of a sociodemographic part and Bangla Parenting Style and Dimension Questionnaire (PSDQ-Bangla) after taking informed written consent from the parents.¹⁵ Principal from each school was explained about the purpose and procedure of the study. After taking consent from Principals, necessary and relevant information was taken. Then the questionnaire was distributed among the parents with a prospective collection date. Finally on the assigned day the responses were collected. Data analysis was done by the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 24.0 using appropriate statistical tests. Ethical approval was taken from Institutional Review Board (IRB) of National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital (NIMH) before starting the data collection. Data were kept anonymous and confidential.

Results

A total of 151 parents was interviewed by PSDQ Bangla. The mean (\pm SD) age of the parents was 40.76 (\pm 5.83) years ranging from 30 to 58 years. Most of the parents was in the range of 40-44

years (31.13%), followed by 35-39 years (29.80%) (Table I). About two-third of the parents (75.50%)

Socio-demography

Table I: Distribution of sociodemographic variables (N=151)

Variable	Frequency (n)	Percent (%)
Age in years		
30-34	22	14.57
35-39	45	29.80
40-44	47	31.13
45-49	20	13.25
50 and above	17	11.26
Religion		
Islam	147	97.35
Hindu	4	2.65
Occupation		
Banker	2	1.32
Barber	1	0.66
Business	7	4.64
Doctor	19	12.58
Housewife	33	21.85
Nurse	2	1.32
Service	30	19.86
Teacher	31	20.52
Missing	26	17.22
Education		
Below SSC	8	5.30
SSC	14	9.27
HSC	12	7.95
Honors	19	12.58
Masters	98	64.90
Medium of School		
Bangla	96	63.58
English	55	36.42
Family Type		
Joint	36	23.84
Nuclear	114	75.50
Sex of the child		
Boy	75	49.67
Girl	76	50.33
Respondent		
Father	47	31.13
Mother	104	68.87
Total	151	100

were under 45 years of age (Table I). Among the 151 parents, the majority (n=147) has Muslim background followed by Hinduism (2.65%). Among the 151 parents, about 65% (n=98) of them had educational attainment up to Masters and above. About 5% of the parents had educational attainment below SSC, and about 10% had educational attainment up to SSC (Table I). Among the respondents, 21.85% were housewife, followed by teacher (21%), service holder (20%), and physician (13%). About one-sixth (17.22%) of the parents didn't mention their occupations. About 11% of respondent didn't mention their monthly expense (income) variable. Among the 151 participants, about two-third of them were living in nuclear family and rest of them were living in joint family. The responded parents indicate similar number of boys and girls as their index child for this study. The 151 parents mentioned 75 boys and 76 girls. The collected responses indicate that about two-third (63.58%) of the parents had child attending Bangla medium school and the rest (36.42%) had attended the English medium school. Among the 151 parents, more than two-third (68.87%) were mother and the rest (31.13%) were fathers.

Parenting Style and Variations

Table II: Frequency of Parenting style of the parents (n=151)

Domain	Observation	Mean	Std. Dev.	Frequency	Percent
Authoritative	151	4.22	0.53	146	96.69
Authoritarian	151	2.02	0.42	2	1.32
Permissive	151	1.92	0.52	3	1.99
Total				151	100

Based on the analysis, about 97% of parents had authoritative parenting style, followed by permissive and authoritarian (Table II). The mean (\pm SD) score was 4.22 (\pm .53) in authoritative domain, 2.02 (\pm .42) in authoritarian domain, and 1.92 (\pm .52) in permissive domain.

Table III depict the association of parenting style and socio-demographic variables assessed by independent t-test. The analysis revealed that mothers were significantly authoritative than fathers ($p=.001$), Muslim parents were more permissive than Hindu parents ($p=.048$). No other associations between parenting style and sex of the child, medium of education, and family structure were noted from the responses (Table III).

Discussion

Parenting pattern reflects the parent and child's normative interaction which influence the child's cognitive, intellectual and psychosocial development. Therefore, the current study intended to

with children from 6-16 years of age by PSDQ Bangla questionnaire. A similar distribution of demographic variables was noted in the PSDQ validation study done in Bangladesh where the sample size was 349 parents.¹⁵ Another study assessed parenting style among 83 nursing students. All the studies explained the justification of taking the sample size and they used statistical justification for the calculation of it.

In the current study, the responded parents indicate similar number of boys (75) and girls (76) as their index child for this study. However, more than two-third (68.87%) was mother and the rest (31.13%) was fathers. Similar distribution of parents was noted in previous studies in Bangla-

Table III: Association of parenting style with sociodemographic variables (n=151)

Variable	n (%)	Authoritative		Authoritarian		Permissive	
		Mean (\pm SD)	p value	Mean (\pm SD)	p value	Mean (\pm SD)	p value
Total	151 (100)	4.22 (\pm .53)		2.01 (\pm .42)		1.92 (\pm .52)	
Respondent							
Father	47 (31.13)	4.04 (\pm .66)	0.001	1.94 (\pm .34)	0.060	1.99 (\pm .46)	0.13
Mother	104 (68.87)	4.3 (\pm .44)		2.05 (\pm .44)		1.89 (\pm .54)	
Children							
Boy	75 (49.67)	4.18 (\pm .55)	0.16	2.02 (\pm .47)	0.41	1.92 (\pm .52)	0.49
Girl	76 (50.33)	4.26 (\pm .50)		2.01 (\pm .35)		1.92 (\pm .50)	
Medium							
Bangla	96 (63.58)	4.19 (\pm .56)	0.20	2.04 (\pm .38)	0.13	1.93 (\pm .53)	0.30
English	55 (36.42)	4.27 (\pm .47)		1.96 (\pm .46)		1.89 (\pm .48)	
Religion							
Hindu	4 (2.65)	4.32 (\pm .31)	0.35	2 (\pm .16)	0.46	1.5 (\pm .27)	0.048
Islam	147 (97.35)	4.22 (\pm .53)		2.02 (\pm .42)		1.93 (\pm .52)	
Family							
Joint	36 (23.84)	4.25 (\pm .58)	0.35	2.05 (\pm .43)	0.26	1.93 (\pm .52)	0.48
Nuclear	114 (75.5)	4.21 (\pm .51)		2 (\pm .41)		1.92 (\pm .52)	

$p = <0.05$ is considered as level of significance.

assess the parenting pattern of students of Bangla and English medium school of a selected area of Dhaka city. It was a descriptive cross-sectional type of study conducted among 151 parents with child studying in Bangla and English medium school. Data were collected from either of parents

desh as well as in the western countries. Similar maternal predominance was also noted in other studies in different culture. A study in Turkey found that among 511 parents 383 (74.95%) were mothers and 128 (25.05%) were fathers.¹⁶ The collected responses indicate that about two-third (63.58%) of the parents had child

attending Bangla medium school and the rest (n=55, 36.42%) had attended the English medium school. The study revealed that about 97% of parents had authoritative parenting style, followed by permissive and authoritarian. The mean (\pm SD) score was 4.22(\pm .53) in authoritative domain, 2.02(\pm .42) in authoritarian domain, and 1.92(\pm .52) in permissive domain. No other associations between parenting style and sex of the child, medium of education, and family structure were noted from the responses. The association between parenting style and age of the parents was assessed by Chi Square test that revealed no relationship with age of the parents and parenting style ($p=0.77$). Similar high authoritative dominance was also noted in the study conducted among the nurses where mean \pm SD of authoritative domain was 4.50(\pm 0.89), authoritarian domain was 1.93(\pm 0.86) and the permissive domain was 1.70(\pm 0.98). Mothers had a significantly higher score in authoritarian domain score than the fathers ($p=0.008$). Parents who completed higher secondary school certificate (HSC) and above had significantly lower authoritarian domain score than those who were up to secondary school certificate (SSC) ($p<0.001$). The parents of students studying in Bangla medium had a significantly higher authoritative score than those of who were studying in English medium ($p=0.002$). Parents of students from Academia (English medium School) had significantly lower authoritative domain score and higher authoritarian domain score than that of other schools ($p=0.003$ and $p=0.027$, respectively).¹⁵

The study revealed a huge difference among the parenting styles when compared to the other studies based on the practicing pattern of predominant parenting style. The authoritative style has been predominantly identified in the Western countries. Thus, findings of this study contradict the notion that Asian parents are more authoritarian than Western parents.^{2,17} The authoritarian parenting style was predominantly

noted in Kenya where physical punishment has been considered for controlling children.¹⁸ The study also revealed another contradicting finding that, mothers were more authoritarian than father as previous studies from China revealed strict father and kind mothers.¹⁹ Studies from India also revealed strict fathers and supportive mothers while interacting with children.¹³ It was also difficult to explain as Bangladesh had a patriarchal family culture where males worked outside, play the controlling roles for the children whilst mothers were busy child rearing and caring. We speculated that; social desirability effect could affect the parents while responding the questions. Further studies were recommended to address the gaps. Additionally, perception of parenting from the children and variations of parenting between the parents, and variations of interactions between male and female children should be explored in the country to depict a complex scenario as perceptions varies across the persons such as children, self, partner.¹²

The findings may indicate several possibilities. Firstly, there may have a high selection bias as the data were collected conveniently and schools were chosen purposively. Hence, the parents those were conscious about parenting could respond that resulting in a disproportionately higher authoritative parenting style. It could be avoided by random sampling that was not possible in the current study due to school closures for the COVID-19 pandemic. Secondly, the responses from parents may indicate social desirability aspect while responding. The parents may think about standard parenting norms instead of their real-life practice that revealed a disproportionately higher authoritative parenting style. This can be avoided by applying a different instrument to the children of respective parents to check the variations and/or similarities between the responses. In that case further validation of the PSDQ Bangla could be attempted in different population. Thirdly, responses may justify the educational and

social background of parents living in the capital city. There is a possibility to have such high authoritative style due to the educational and socioeconomic status of parents.

Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

Conclusion

This study assessed parenting style in Bangla and English medium schools of Dhaka city identifying an unusually high proportion of authoritative parenting about 97% of parents, which may warrant cautious interpretation while generalizing the study result. The study also revealed that mothers were significantly authoritative than fathers. There were no significant variations in parenting style among parents of Bangla and English medium schools. Further studies are warranted involving the children and head-to-head by other means and/or instruments to generalize the study findings. Additionally, random sampling should be considered. The checking can be performed by taking responses from both parents indicating the parenting practices of partner.

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