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Comparison of Parenting Styles of Mothers of Children with Behavioral Disorders and Mothers of Normal Children

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A B S T R A C T

This study compared the styles of mothers of children with behavioral disorders and mental health of mothers with normal children 5 to 12 years old. This descriptive study - a comparison was designed and implemented. The sample included 80 patients (40 women and mothers of children with behavior disorders remaining 40 mothers of normal children) was selected as an example. Baumrind styles questionnaires, tests, mental health and behavioral disorders Rutter GHQ-28 were completed by women members. Data using distributed among descriptive statistics such as mean and standard deviation to summarize and describe the data and to test the hypothesis test was used to compare two independent mean. T test for independent variables showed that the mental health of mothers of children with behavior disorders and normal children there are significant differences. T-test showed the scale of the independent variable mothers of children with behavior disorders and children marking the release of normal no significant difference. Independent variable T test showed the scale of authoritative mothers of children with behavior disorders and normal children no significant difference T test for independent variables showed reasonable strength scale of mothers of children with behavior disorders among children and mothers of normal children there are significant differences. Compared with normal children, mothers, mothers of children with behavioral problems in a more rational way of dealing with their children's use However, the amount of free enterprise and also impose strict authority is a logical way that seems necessary. In contrast, mothers of children with behavioral disorders using permissive parenting style and authoritarian tendencies are more involved.

Keywords: Parenting Styles, Mental Health, Behavioral Disorders.

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between parents and children is one of the important issues considered by many scholars and experts in education. Family is the first organization, which establishes the bond between the child and surrounding environment (Brown & Iyengar, 2008; Tam, Chong, Kadirvelu, & Khoo, 2012). In addition, pediatricians and child psychologists believed that inefficient familial relationships and parenting styles cause many abnormalities in children. They emphasized that childhood events are effective in development of children's personalities and lives. Undoubtedly, children's psychological conditions cannot be changed without changing familial function. The complex interactions between children's behavioral disorders and family

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variable should be considered in order to modify the children's behavior (Bolghan-Abadi, Kimiaee, & Amir, 2011; Vera, Granero, & Ezpeleta, 2012).

Parenting style is considered as one global structure, which indicates both emotional and general relationships between parents and the children. This is considered as an important factor in children's development and learning (Xie, 1996). According to attachment theory, the nature of children's relationships with important people in their lives (such as parents or both caregivers) is effective in development of various social, emotional and cognitive aspects of children's growth in early years (Huang & Gove, 2015; Yousefi, 2007).

According to Darling, parenting styles can be defined as follows: "parenting styles are a set of non-verbal attitudes, actions and expressions, which determine the nature of interaction between the child and parents in various situations". The effect of family environment on children's growth is often investigated by observing parent-child interaction. In these observations, usually behavioral characteristics of the parents were assessed by two dimensions: a) acceptance (intimacy), which includes fostering and supporting positive emotions between parents and children; b) control, which includes those parents' behaviors, which guide the children's behaviors, these behaviors include guiding, controlling, inhibiting or permissive (authoritative, authoritarian, inhibiting and permissive) (Darling, 1999; Osorio & González-Cámara, 2016; Pozzi et al., 2019).

The children's behavioral disorders directly affect the children's mental health, which is influenced by parents' behavior and interactions with the children. Parenting styles are effective in different kinds of behavioral disorders in children such as social maladjustment (Yousefi, 2007), aggression (Bolghan-Abadi et al., 2011), attention deficit - hyperactivity (Heidari, Dehghani, & Khodapanahi, 2009), depression and anxiety (Tam et al., 2012), aggressive behaviors and offense (Bolghan-Abadi et al., 2011).

Katanin (1997), studied children's temperament and parenting styles of the mothers. They concluded that mother's strict disciplines develop the children's negative emotions; as a result, the children are less socialized, which prevents the children's spontaneous activities. Xie (1996), studied the effect of parenting styles on children's exploratory learning in school. The findings indicated that authoritative parenting style increases exploratory learning. As a result, the children better adjust to (deal with) such problems as behavioral problems, social skills and academic performance.

Literature also suggested that behavioral disorders in children and relevant effective factors were not fully examined. On the other hand, reducing devastating consequences of child behavior disorders was prioritized in many research institutes. Many researchers focus on designing and perfecting those techniques and approaches that make possible precise investigation of effective factors in these behaviors. According to a number of research papers in Iran, children are experiencing major problem, which are increasing day by day. Studies show that behavioral disorders among children are increasing (Anisi, Bahadori, & Jahanbakhsh, 2013; Ekhtiari et al., 2008). Therefore, studying the factors influencing behavioral disorders is important. It seems that parents-children relationship is the most important factors affecting the incidence of these behaviors. Considering the importance of parenting styles and behavioral disorders, the present study aimed to compare the parenting styles of mothers of children with behavior disorders and mothers of 5 to 12 years old normal children.

METHODOLOGY

This is a comparative, causal field study. The statistical population consisted of all mothers of 5 to 12 years old children with behavioral disorders in Bandar Lengeh and Bandar Kong (in

Iran). Among these, 40 mothers of those children with behavioral disorders as well as 40 mothers of normal children in Bandar Lengeh (in Iran) were selected as a sample size using available sampling method. In the present study, following questionnaires were used to assess the subjects:

Baumrind Parenting Styles Questionnaire: Baumrind Parenting Styles Questionnaire is used to assess parenting style. This tool is based on Baumrind (1991), Theory, which defines permissive, authoritative and authoritarian parenting styles. Baumrind reported that reliability of the questionnaire was 0.81 for permissive parenting, 0.92 for authoritarian parenting style and 0.92 for authoritative style using test-retest method. He also examined validity of the questionnaire. Then, he found out that the relationship between permissive and authoritarian parenting styles was (-0.50) while the relationship between authoritative and authoritarian parenting styles was (-0.52) in mothers. In the present study, reliability coefficient on 30 subjects was calculated as 0.85 using Cronbach's alpha.

Behavioral Disorders Questionnaire: This questionnaire consisted of 30 questions in which 24 questions were derived directly from the Rutter questionnaire. According to Persian Culture, 6 questions were added to the questionnaire. Each test item was scored based on a three points (0, 1, and 2). This test covers five main dimensions such as hyperactivity/aggression, anxiety/depression, antisocial behavior/behavioral disorder, attention deficit disorder and maladaptive behaviors. This tool has high reliability and validity. Rutter (1967), conducted an experiment on 91 children in which psychiatric questionnaire along with behavioral disorders questionnaire were used. He reported the agreement percentage (correlation coefficient between the two questionnaires) as 0.75. Yousefi (2007), implemented the latter questionnaire along with Gestalt Bandar Test on 50 subjects in Shiraz City. He obtained a high correlation coefficient between these two questionnaires as 0.96. Reliability coefficient was calculated as 0.86 among 30 subjects using Cronbach's alpha. T-test was used to test the research hypotheses.

RESULTS

The First hypothesis: there is a significant difference between permissive parenting styles of mothers of children with behavioral disorders and mothers of normal children in Bandar Lengeh and Bandar Kong.

According to the table above, two independent means were obtained based on mean comparison results. Level of significance was $\alpha = 0.432$, $P > 0.05$ and $DF = 5.973$. Therefore, there was no difference between the two independent means. In other words, H_0 was confirmed while H_1 (research hypothesis) was rejected. Then, it is concluded that there is no significant difference between permissive parenting styles of mothers of children with behavior disorders and mothers of normal children in Bandar Lengeh and Bandar Kong.

Table 1. Independent t-tests relevant to permissive parenting styles of mothers of children with behavior disorders and mothers of normal children

Variable	Group	Frequency	Mean	Std. deviation	DF	t	Sig.
Permissive parenting style	Normal	40	15.63	5.973	5.973	1.63	0.4
	Behavioral disorders	40	16.68	5.907			

The Second Hypothesis: there is a significant difference between authoritative parenting styles of mothers of children with behavior disorders and mothers of normal children in Bandar Lengeh and Bandar Kong.

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According to the table above, two independent means were obtained based on mean comparison results. Level of significance was $\alpha = 0.243$, $P > 0.05$ and $DF = 78$. Therefore, there was no difference between the two independent means. In other words, H_0 was confirmed while H_1 (research hypothesis) was rejected. Then, it is concluded that there is no significant difference between authoritative parenting styles of mothers of children with behavior disorders and mothers of normal children in Bandar Lengeh and Bandar Kong.

Table 2. T independent test on authoritative parenting styles of mothers of children with behavior disorders and mothers of normal children

Variable	Group	Frequency	Mean	Std. deviation	DF	t	Sig.
Authoritative parenting style	Normal	40	16.45	4.619	78	1.177	0.2
	Behavioral disorders	40	17.93	6.443			

The Third Hypothesis: there is a significant difference between authoritarian parenting styles of mothers of children with behavior disorders and mothers of normal children in Bandar Lengeh and Bandar Kong.

According to the table above, two independent means were obtained based on mean comparison results. Level of significance was $\alpha = 0.012$, $P > 0.05$ and $DF = 78$. Therefore, there was a difference between the two independent means. In other words, H_0 was rejected while H_1 (research hypothesis) was confirmed. Then, it is concluded that there is a significant difference between authoritarian parenting styles of mothers of children with behavior disorders and mothers of normal children in Bandar Lengeh and Bandar Kong.

The mean scores for authoritarian parenting style were obtained as 23.53 in normal group while as 28.18 in behavioral disorder group. This difference was statistically significant.

Table 3. Investigating the relationship between secure attachment and permissive parenting style of students' mothers

Variable	Group	Frequency	Mean	Std. deviation	DF	t	Sig.
Authoritarian parenting style	Normal	40	23.53	7.854	78	-2.58	0.01
	Behavioral disorders	40	28.18	8.261			

CONCLUSION

The present study aimed to compare parenting styles of mothers of children with behavioral disorders and mothers of 5 to 12 years old normal children in Bandar Kong city of Bandar Lengeh. Findings on the first hypothesis showed that there is no significant difference between permissive parenting styles of mothers of children with behavioral disorders and mothers of normal children in Bandar Kong city of Bandar Lengeh. If the parents deal with their children logically, the children make better decisions and deal with their problems logically. If the parents deal with their children reasonably, the children will be more reasonable as well.

Findings on the second hypothesis showed that there is no significant difference between authoritative parenting styles of mothers of children with behavioral disorders and mothers of 5 to 12 years old normal children in Bandar Kong city of Bandar Lengeh. In other words, the effect of authoritative behavior on children with behavior disorders and normal children did not differ statistically. Then, both mothers use the same authoritative parenting styles to rear their children. However, authoritative parenting styles are effective in incidence of behavioral disorders.

Findings on the third hypothesis showed that there is a significant difference between authoritarian parenting styles of mothers of children with behavior disorders and mothers of normal children in Bandar Kong and Bandar Lengeh. It should be noted that authoritarian

parenting style is used by mothers of children with behavioral disorders more than mothers of normal children. Then, mothers of normal children are more inclined to use non-aggressive authoritarian parenting styles instead of aggressive authoritative parenting style.

Children are at risk of behavioral disorders. Research has shown that how the children interact with their parents affect the incidence of behavioral disorders and mental health of the children (Çetinkaya, 2018). Since children mostly interact with their mothers who are usually housewives, the children will be limited in terms of their social interaction, especially in Iran. The family is the singular social environment the child interacts with, sometimes until the start of school. The children's behavioral patterns and characters mostly develop through the children's interaction with their families. Therefore, the mother's disorder might affect the child as well. As a result, the children might acquire pathological behavioral patterns.

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