

## ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES AND PATERNAL PARENTING STYLE-A STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Hisar district of state Haryana. The objective of the study was to assess the impact of ecological perspectives on paternal parenting style. A sample comprised of 100 fathers of children in the age group of 7-8 years. The results revealed that respondent's occupation, education and caste were significantly related to paternal parenting styles. It was also found that paternal parenting style were significantly associated with composite home environment and its aspects viz., encouragement of maturity, emotional climate, learning materials and opportunities, enrichment, family companionship and family integration which were perceived by their offsprings. Most of the fathers were authoritative, followed by authoritarian and permissive parenting style.

**KEYWORDS:** Paternal Parenting, Socio-Personal and Home Environment

### INTRODUCTION

Parenting is the style of child up-bringing which refers to a privilege of responsibility of mother and father, together or independently to prepare the child for society and culture, which provides ample opportunity to a child to find roots, continuity and a sense of belonging (Sirohi and Chauhan, 1991) and also serves as an effective agent of socialization. It is a reciprocal process where the parent influences the child's development, and in return, the child influences the parent (Sclafani, 2004). Both mothers and fathers have remained contributor to the development of their children. Father is seen as bridge by which the child reaches the outside world (Meertoo and Burnhardet, 1975). Parenting style captures two important elements of parenting: parental responsiveness and parental demandingness (Maccoby and Martin, 1983). Parents categorized according to parental demandingness and responsiveness which creates a typology of four parenting styles: authoritarian, authoritative, permissive and uninvolved (Maccoby and Martin, 1983).

Fathering has increasingly gained the attention of researchers, especially as the perceived roles of fathers have increased beyond that of being the economic provider for the family. Another factor contributing to the increased interest in fathering is the recognition of the importance of the father-child relationship. This relationship is important in the context of the social and emotional development of children (Berlyn et al., 2008; Fletcher 2008; Palkovitz & Palm 2009).

Parental socio-ecological system also influenced their adaptation of parenting style and it directly affects their children's developmental aspects. There are so many factors like parental' education, occupation, number of siblings, background, status, health, ethnicity etc. which affects their rearing style of parents. Keeping the above in view, an attempt is made to find out the influence of ecological perspectives on paternal parenting style.

## METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Hisar city purposively due to easy accessibility. The sample consist of 100 fathers of the children in the age group of 7 to 8 years were selected randomly. Two types of variables, i.e. independent and dependent were taken. Socio-personal and home environment were taken as independent variables and parenting style was taken as a dependent variable. Interview Schedule was developed and used for the socio-personal variable. The Home Observation Measurement of the Environment (HOME) by Caldwell & Bradley, 1984 was used to judge the environmental conditions of home. The Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire by Robinson *et al.* (1995) was used for measurement of the three parenting styles.

## RESULTS

### Distribution of Fathers According to Parenting Styles

Table 1 represented distribution of fathers according to their parenting styles. It was found that 50% fathers of children were perceived as authoritative followed by authoritarian parenting style (30%) and permissive parenting style (20%).

**Table 1: Distribution of Fathers According to Parenting Styles N=100**

Sr. No.	Paternal Parenting Styles	Frequency and Percentages
1	Authoritative	50 (50.0)
2	Authoritarian	30(30.0)
3	Permissive	20(20.0)

### Associations of Socio-Personal Variable with Paternal Parenting Styles

The data in the Table 2 envisaged the associations of paternal parenting styles which was not significantly related to ordinal position of child ( $\chi^2=1.66$ ), number off springs ( $\chi^2=6.47$ ), occupation of wife ( $\chi^2=2.51$ ), education of mother ( $\chi^2=4.28$ ), family income ( $\chi^2=1.1$ ), family type ( $\chi^2=0.25$ ), and family size ( $\chi^2=7.81$ ). Whereas occupation of respondent ( $\chi^2=12.25^*$ ), education of respondent ( $\chi^2=12.79^*$ ), and caste ( $\chi^2=13.37^*$ ) were significantly related to paternal parenting styles.

**Table 2: Associations of Socio-Personal Variable with Paternal Parenting Styles (N=100)**

Parenting Styles Socio personal Variable	Authoritative	Authoritarian	Permissive	Total	$\chi^2$ Value
<b>Ordinal Position of Child</b>					1.66
First born	19	14	10	40	
Second born	20	9	5	37	
Third and above	11	7	5	23	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>No. of Offspring</b>					6.47
One	14	10	5	29	

Two	23	6	9	38	
Three and more	13	14	6	33	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Occupation of Respondent</b>					
Labour/farming	5	7	7	19	12.25*
Business/Self employment	32	11	5	48	
Services	13	12	8	33	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Occupation of Wife</b>					
Home maker	41	24	13	78	2.51
Working	9	6	7	22	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Education of Respondent</b>					
Up to Middle	8	11	10	29	12.79*
Higher school to Senior secondary school	20	14	5	39	
Graduate/post graduate	22	5	5	32	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Education of Wife</b>					
Higher school to Senior secondary school	20	19	9	48	4.28
Graduate/post graduate	15	6	6	27	
Higher school to Senior secondary school	15	5	5	25	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Family Income (monthly)</b>					
Up to Rs.15,000	12	7	6	25	1.1
Rs.15,001-50,000	18	13	6	37	
More than Rs.50,000	20	10	8	38	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Family Type</b>					
Nuclear	29	16	12	57	0.25
Joint	21	14	8	43	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Family Size</b>					
Small(up to 5 members)	26	10	9	45	7.81
Medium (6-8 members)	9	14	5	28	
Large(more than 8 members)	15	6	6	27	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Caste</b>					
Schedule caste	8	13	6	27	13.37*
Backward caste	14	12	11	37	
General	18	5	5	36	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	

Significant at 5% level of significance

### Associations of Home Environment with Paternal Parenting Styles

Paternal parenting style was significantly associated with composite home environment perceived by their children and its aspects viz., encouragement of maturity, emotional climate, learning materials and opportunities, enrichment, family companionship and family integration ( $\chi^2=19.97^*$ ,  $7.55^*$ ,  $18.73^*$ ,  $11.74^*$ ,  $16.12^*$ ,  $25.68^*$ ,  $7.29^*$ , respectively) given to children, but not significantly associated with responsiveness ( $\chi^2=5.48$ ) and physical environment ( $\chi^2=4.13$ ).

Table 3: Associations of Home Environment with Paternal Parenting Styles N=100

Parenting Styles Aspects of Home Environment	Authoritative	Authoritarian	Permissive	Total	$\chi^2$ Value
<b>Responsivity</b>					
Low	9	9	9	27	5.48
High	41	21	11	73	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Encouragement of Maturity</b>					
Low	8	11	9	28	7.55*
High	42	19	11	72	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Emotional Climate</b>					
Low	11	16	15	42	18.73*
High	39	14	5	58	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Learning Materials and Opportunities</b>					
Low	14	16	14	44	11.74*
High	36	14	6	56	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Enrichment</b>					
Low	17	22	15	54	16.12*
High	33	8	5	46	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Family Companionship</b>					
Low	8	17	15	40	25.68*
High	42	13	5	60	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Family Integration</b>					
Low	11	11	11	33	7.29*
High	39	19	9	67	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Physical Environment</b>					
Low	11	7	9	27	4.13
High	39	23	11	73	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	
<b>Composite Home Environment</b>					
Low	16	24	14	54	19.97*
High	34	6	6	46	
<b>Total</b>	50	30	20	100	

Significant at 5% level of significance

## DISCUSSIONS

The associations of paternal parenting styles was not significantly related to the ordinal position of child, number of offsprings, occupation of wife, education of wife, family income, family type and family size, whereas respondent's occupation, respondent's education and caste was significantly related to paternal parenting styles. These are factors like class, race, and ethnicity, which affects the father's role and parenting styles (Bozett and Hanson, 1991; Marsiglio and Pleck, 2004). Kimmel and Messner (2001) argued that the traditional image of fatherhood is changing. The shift of family structures, the increase in the number of working mothers, and the change of the traditional fathers' role had all influenced paternal involvement today.

Paternal parenting style were significantly associated with composite home environment perceived by their children and its aspects, viz., encouragement of maturity, emotional climate, learning materials and opportunities, enrichment, family companionship and family integration but not significantly associated with responsivity and physical environment. Responsibility means that the father has a duty to care for his children's welfare (Pleck and Stueve, 2001).

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