

Paternal Parenting Styles and Sibling Relationships in Young Adults

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ABSTRACT

This correlational study investigates the relationships between paternal parenting styles and sibling warmth and conflict among young adults in India. Descriptive statistics, Spearman correlation analysis, and gender-specific analyses were employed to analyze data from 116 females and 92 males. Results indicate weak associations between paternal parenting styles and sibling relationship dimensions, with only the correlation between Authoritative parenting style and warmth reaching statistical significance. Gender differences were non-significant, suggesting homogeneity in perceptions across genders. Similarly, no significant differences were found based on education level or birth order. These findings contribute to understanding familial dynamics among young adults in India and underscore the nuanced nature of parental influences on sibling relationships.

Keywords: paternal parenting styles, sibling relationships, young adults, gender differences, education level, birth order

INTRODUCTION

Family dynamics, particularly sibling relationships and parental influence, significantly shape the development and interpersonal interactions of individuals. As individuals transition from adolescence to young adulthood, the nature and quality of sibling relationships undergo profound changes influenced by various factors, including parental behaviors. Understanding the intricate interplay between sibling relationships and parental behaviors, especially paternal parenting styles, is crucial for comprehending family dynamics and socioemotional development during this pivotal developmental stage.

Theoretical frameworks such as attachment theory and social learning theory provide valuable insights into the influence of

parental behaviors and socioenvironmental factors on sibling relationships. Attachment theory emphasizes the significance of early attachment experiences with parents in shaping subsequent social interactions, including those with siblings ⁽¹⁾. Secure attachment with parents fosters trust and cooperation among siblings, highlighting the importance of parental behaviors in shaping sibling relationships.

Social learning theory posits that individuals learn behaviors through observation, imitation, and modeling within social environments ⁽²⁾. Positive reinforcement from parents encourages cooperative behaviors among siblings, while negative behaviors may lead to punishment or disapproval, influencing the quality of sibling interactions.

Paternal parenting styles - authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive - play a pivotal role in shaping sibling dynamics during young adulthood. Authoritarian parenting, characterized by high control and low warmth, may lead to increased sibling rivalry and conflict⁽³⁾.

In contrast, authoritative parenting, marked by warmth and clear communication, fosters positive sibling relationships characterized by trust and empathy⁽⁴⁾.

Permissive parenting, with high warmth but low control, may result in indulgence and leniency, potentially impacting sibling interactions negatively⁽³⁾.

In the Indian context, cultural frameworks such as familism and emotional closeness significantly influence sibling relationships. Familism emphasizes familial interconnectedness and support networks, while emotional closeness fosters warmth, empathy, and communication within Indian families⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾. These cultural values contribute to the quality of sibling relationships, highlighting the importance of considering cultural perspectives in understanding family dynamics.

Sibling relationships evolve over time, influenced by various factors, including parental behaviors, individual differences, and situational factors⁽⁷⁾. During young adulthood, siblings navigate the challenges of establishing independence, pursuing educational and career goals, and forming intimate relationships⁽⁸⁾. Positive sibling relationships characterized by warmth, support, and cooperation contribute to individuals' socioemotional well-being and overall adjustment during this developmental period⁽⁹⁾.

Theoretical and empirical research has highlighted the enduring impact of parental behaviors, particularly paternal parenting styles, on sibling relationships during young adulthood. However, significant gaps remain in understanding the specific mechanisms through which different paternal parenting styles influence sibling dynamics. Addressing these gaps is essential for informing intervention strategies aimed

at promoting positive sibling interactions and enhancing individuals' socioemotional development during the transition to young adulthood.

Moreover, exploring the associations between paternal parenting styles and sibling relationships contributes to broader theoretical frameworks in developmental psychology, such as attachment theory and social learning theory. By elucidating the role of parental behaviors in shaping sibling dynamics, this research advances our understanding of family dynamics,

MATERIALS & METHODS

Research Design

In this study, a correlational research design with a quantitative approach is employed to examine the relationships between paternal parenting styles and sibling warmth and conflict among young adults in India. Correlational analysis enables the exploration of potential patterns or trends in the data, offering a nuanced understanding of how different parenting styles may influence sibling dynamics.

Statement of the Problem

The primary objective of this study is to investigate how different paternal parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, permissive) are related to sibling warmth and conflict among young adults in India. This problem statement addresses a significant gap in the existing literature by focusing specifically on the Indian cultural context and its unique familial dynamics. By examining the impact of paternal parenting styles on sibling relationships, this study aims to contribute to our understanding of family dynamics within the Indian cultural context in the age group of Young Adults. Understanding the role of parental influences on sibling relationships is crucial for promoting healthy family dynamics and interpersonal relationships among young adults.

Objectives of the Study

1. The research seeks to investigate the associations between authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive paternal parenting styles and sibling warmth and conflict. By exploring these associations, the study aims to elucidate the specific effects of each parenting style on sibling relationships.
2. The research aims to delve deeper into the unique context of parenting style and sibling relationships within the Indian cultural framework.

Hypotheses

The study formulates several null hypotheses to test the absence of significant relationships between paternal parenting styles and sibling warmth and conflict.

H₀1: There is no significant relationship between authoritative paternal parenting style and sibling warmth among young adults in India.

H₀2: There is no significant relationship between authoritative paternal parenting style and sibling conflict among young adults in India.

H₀3: There is no significant relationship between authoritarian paternal parenting style and sibling warmth among young adults in India.

H₀4: There is no significant relationship between authoritarian paternal parenting style and sibling conflict among young adults in India.

H₀5: There is no significant relationship between permissive paternal parenting style and sibling warmth among young adults in India.

H₀6: There is no significant relationship between permissive paternal parenting style and sibling conflict among young adults in India.

Operational Definition

The operational definitions of paternal parenting styles and sibling relationship dimensions provide clarity and specificity to the study variables.

Paternal parenting styles encompass authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive styles, each characterized by distinct behaviors and attitudes. Authoritative parenting emphasizes warmth, responsiveness, and clear expectations, while authoritarian parenting prioritizes strict discipline and control. Permissive parenting, on the other hand, is characterized by warmth and indulgence with minimal demands.

Sibling relationship dimensions include warmth, reflecting closeness and affection, and conflict, representing disagreements and rivalry. These operational definitions guide the measurement and analysis of parental influences and sibling dynamics within the study.

Variables

The study consists variables, as well as demographic variables, to systematically analyze the relationships under investigation. One of the variables is paternal parenting style, categorized into authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive styles.

The other variable is sibling relationship, comprising dimensions of warmth and conflict. These variables reflect the outcomes or effects of the different paternal parenting styles on sibling dynamics. Additionally, demographic variables such as age, gender, and education qualification are included to account for potential confounding factors and provide a comprehensive understanding of the study population.

Universe of the Study

The universe of the study encompasses young adults in India aged 18-24 who have actively involved fathers and at least one sibling. This specific demographic group is selected based on its relevance to the research objectives and the focus on familial relationships during the transition to adulthood. By targeting young adults within this age range, the study aims to capture developmental nuances and experiences that

may influence sibling dynamics. Additionally, focusing on individuals with actively involved fathers ensures that paternal influences are adequately represented in the analysis. By specifying the universe of the study, researchers can tailor recruitment and sampling strategies to effectively reach the target population.

Sample and Techniques

The sample comprises 208 young adults aged 18-24 recruited through convenience sampling methods. Convenience sampling is chosen for its practicality and accessibility, allowing researchers to efficiently collect data from individuals who meet the study criteria. Online data collection via Google Forms is utilized to reach a broader pool of potential participants and streamline the data collection process. This technique enables researchers to gather responses from a diverse range of young adults across different geographical locations within India.

Inclusion criteria

- Participants must be young adults aged 18-24
- Participants must have their father currently involved in their parenting
- Participants must at least have one sibling.

These criteria ensures that participants meet the requirements for studying the influence of paternal parenting styles on sibling relationships.

Exclusion criteria

- Any adults without biological siblings (that is single child).
- Any adult who has a single parent (mothers), as these individuals may not reflect the target population of the study.

By clearly defining the sample distribution criteria, researchers can ensure that participants are representative of the population of interest, thereby enhancing the validity and generalizability of the study findings.

Research Ethics Followed

Ethical considerations are paramount in conducting research involving human participants. Ethical considerations adhered to in accordance with the 2016 amendment of APA ethics (point number 8):

Institutional approval (8.01): Institutional clearance was obtained at the proposal stage of the study.

Informed Consent (8.02): Participants received detailed consent documents outlining the study protocols and their option to withdraw. These documents were drafted in plain language devoid of technical terms to promote comprehension. Inclusion in the study was limited to those who voluntarily provided written informed consent.

Offering Inducements for Research Participation (8.06): Participants were not offered any inducements for their involvement in the research.

Deception in Research (8.07): No deception was employed by the researcher in any aspect of the study.

Debriefing (8.08): Debriefing was unnecessary as no deception was utilized in the study.

Duplicate Publication of Data (8.13): The study's data had not been previously published.

Proper acknowledgment would be provided if data were republished in the future.

Tools for the Study

Two validated tools are utilized in this study to measure paternal parenting styles and sibling relationship dimensions.

Paternal Authority Questionnaire (PAQ)

John P. Buri created the Paternal Authority Questionnaire (PAQ) in 1989 to evaluate parenting philosophies that are permissive, authoritarian, and authoritative. An extensive framework for assessing the paternal influences on child development and family dynamics is offered by this questionnaire. There are 30 questions in all in the questionnaire. Numerous research has proven the reliability of the PAQ. The

Parenting Authority Questionnaire (PAQ) demonstrates robust psychometric properties, as evidenced by several studies. Buri (1989) found that the PAQ exhibited strong test-retest reliability, with a coefficient of 0.86, indicating a significant correlation between participants' scores when the test was administered twice, two weeks apart. Additionally, the PAQ demonstrated strong internal consistency, with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.87, suggesting high dependability. Moreover, the content validity of the PAQ was assessed by establishing a threshold of 95% agreement among experts regarding the inclusion of questionnaire items. Thirty-six out of the original 43 items met this criterion, with 10 items representing each of the authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive parenting approaches. This indicates excellent content validity, as 21 professionals agreed that these items accurately reflect Baumrind's definitions of parenting styles⁽¹⁰⁾

Measures various aspects of sibling relationships in adulthood, including warmth and conflict. For this research we used the Italian Adaptation of ASRQ which is a shorter version of the scale. The ASRQ was developed by R. P. Lanthier & C. Stocker in 1992 this tool has been widely used in research to explore the quality and dynamics of sibling relationships. The Research comprises of 14 fundamental dimensions comprised in 3 dimensions such as Warmth, Conflict and Rivalry out of which Warmth and Conflict have been the center of this research. This research has a total of 43 questions while the original ASRQ offers 81 questions. By employing these validated tools, researchers can gather reliable and valid data to analyze the relationships under investigation. The ASRQ's reliability and validity were evaluated through several statistical methods, including Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA), Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA), Item-Scale Correlations, Internal Consistency (Cronbach's alpha), and correlation analysis with another measure (NRI)⁽¹¹⁾. EFA revealed that the

identified factors explained 43.41% of the variance, with theoretically meaningful factor loadings. While the initial CFA model did not fit well, a modified model showed improved reliability, supported by substantial standardized parameter estimates and small robust standard errors. Item-Scale Correlations indicated homogeneity within subscales, and Cronbach's alpha coefficients demonstrated satisfactory internal consistency across all subscales, supporting reliability. Furthermore, correlations between ASRQ and NRI scores provided evidence for convergent and discriminant validity, aligning with theoretical expectations⁽¹¹⁾

STATICAL ANALYSIS

In this study, descriptive and inferential statistics are employed using SPSS software. Descriptive statistics provide a summary of the characteristics of the study variables, including measures of central tendency and variability. Inferential statistics, such as Spearman correlation, are used to examine relationships between variables and test the study hypotheses. The significance level is set at $p < 0.05$ to determine whether observed relationships are statistically significant. By employing rigorous statistical analysis techniques, researchers can draw meaningful conclusions and make evidence-based recommendations informed by the study findings.

RESULT

Descriptive statistics

The table 1 represents descriptive statistics for the age variable in the sample population. These statistics provide insights into the central tendency, variability, and distribution of age among the participants.

Table 1 Descriptive Statistics for Age

Age	
Mean	21.42
Median	22.00
Std. Deviation	1.663

Table 1 displays the descriptive statistics for the age variable in the sample population, providing insights into the central tendency, variability, and distribution of age among the participants. The mean age of the participants is 21.42 years, serving as a measure of central tendency, while the median age is 22.00 years, representing the middle value in the sorted list of ages. The standard deviation of 1.663 indicates the dispersion of ages from the mean, suggesting that most ages are clustered within a relatively narrow range around the mean, with approximately 68% falling within one standard deviation. These statistics offer valuable insights into the age distribution of the sample population, aiding in understanding the demographic characteristics of the participants.

Relationship between Paternal Parenting styles and Sibling Relationship

The table 2 presents a correlation matrix showing the relationships between paternal parenting styles (Permissive, Authoritarian, Authoritative) and sibling relationship dimensions (Warmth, Conflict). Correlation coefficients ranging from -1 to +1 indicate the strength and direction of the relationships between these variables.

For the correlation between Permissive parenting style and sibling relationship dimensions, the correlation coefficient with Warmth is 0.051, indicating a weak positive relationship. However, this correlation is not statistically significant at the 0.05 level. The correlation coefficient between Permissive parenting style and Conflict is 0.077, also suggesting a weak positive relationship, but it is not statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

Table 2 Correlation Matrix for Paternal Parenting Styles and Sibling Relationship Dimensions

	Permissive	Authoritarian	Authoritative
Warmth	0.051	-0.100	0.139*
Conflict	0.077	0.120	-0.027

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Moving on to the correlation between Authoritarian parenting style and sibling relationship dimensions, the correlation coefficient with Warmth is -0.100, indicating a weak negative relationship. However, this correlation is not statistically significant at the 0.05 level. The correlation coefficient between Authoritarian parenting style and Conflict is 0.120, indicating a weak positive relationship. Nevertheless, this correlation is not statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

Gender Differences

Table 3 explains about the gender differences in perceptions of paternal parenting styles and their association with sibling relationship dynamics among young adults in India. Data from 115 females and 90 males were analyzed using the Mann-Whitney U test to determine the significance of the results.

In the Permissive parenting scale, males had a mean rank of 111.01 while females had a lower mean rank of 96.73; U = 4454.000, p = .086. Similarly, in the Authoritarian parenting scale, males had a higher mean rank of 115.98 compared to females with a mean rank of 92.84; U = 4006.500, p = .006. For the Authoritative parenting scale, males had a mean rank of 105.93 while females had a slightly lower mean rank of 100.71; U = 4911.500, p = .531. Regarding Warmth, males had a mean rank of 95.21 whereas females had a notably higher mean rank of 109.10; U = 4474.000, p = .096. Lastly, in the Conflict scale, males had a mean rank of 111.35 while females had a lower mean rank of 96.47; U = 4423.500, p = .074.

Table 3 Comparison of Mean Scores & U-value of Males & Females in Paternal Parenting scales and Sibling Relationship Scale

Scales	Gender	Mean	U-value
Permissive	Male	111.01	4454.000
	Female	96.73	
Authoritarian	Male	115.98	4006.500
	Female	92.84	
Authoritative	Male	105.93	4911.500
	Female	100.71	
Warmth	Male	95.21	4474.000
	Female	109.10	
Conflict	Male	111.35	4423.500
	Female	96.47	

Despite differences in mean ranks across the scales, the results indicated no statistically significant gender differences in perceptions of paternal parenting styles and sibling relationship dynamics. The p-values ranged from 0.086 to 0.531, indicating that gender did not significantly influence perceptions of parental behaviors or sibling relationship dynamics among young adults in India. These findings suggest a degree of homogeneity in the data across gender groups. Despite efforts to replicate previous research findings, our study revealed results

that deviated from prior literature on the subject.

Education level

Table 4 presents a comparison of mean ranks and Mann-Whitney U values for different paternal parenting scales based on the current education level of the respondents. The Mann-Whitney U test was used to assess whether there are significant differences in perceptions of paternal parenting styles between individuals with post-graduation and under-graduation education levels.

Table No 4 Comparison of Mean Ranks and Mann-Whitney U Values for Paternal Parenting Scales by Current Education Level

Scales	Current Education level	Mean	u-value	Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)
Permissive	Post Graduation	100.48	4854.000	0.615
	Under Graduation	104.71		
Authoritarian	Post Graduation	100.00	4814.000	0.550
	Under Graduation	105.04		
Authoritative	Post Graduation	107.36	4701.500	0.385
	Under Graduation	100.04		
Warmth	Post Graduation	109.78	4500.000	0.176
	Under Graduation	98.39		
Conflict	Post Graduation	95.79	4464.500	0.150
	Under Graduation	107.91		

There was a non-significant difference in mean ranks for the Permissive parenting scale between individuals with post-graduation education (M = 100.48) and those with under-graduation education (M = 104.71); U (4854.000) = 0.615, p = 0.615. Similarly, for the Authoritarian parenting scale, there was a non-significant difference in mean ranks between individuals with post-graduation education (M = 100.00) and those with under-graduation education (M = 105.04); U(4814.000) = 0.550, p = 0.550. Additionally, for the Authoritative, Warmth, and Conflict scales, individuals with post-graduation education generally had higher mean ranks compared to those with under-graduation education. However, none of these differences reached statistical significance, as indicated by the associated U-values and p-values. Overall, the results suggest that there are no significant differences in perceptions of paternal parenting styles between

individuals with post-graduation and under-graduation education levels.

Birth Order

The Table 5 presents a comparison of mean scores and Chi-Square values for different paternal parenting scales based on the birth order of the respondents. The Kruskal Wallis test was used to assess whether there are significant differences in perceptions of paternal parenting styles between individuals of different birth orders. For the Permissive parenting scale, individuals identified as the younger birth order have the highest mean score of 110.61, while those identified as the Middle birth order have the lowest mean score of 87.12. However, the associated Chi-Square value of 4.095 and a p-value of 0.129 suggest that this difference is not statistically significant at the 0.05 level. Similarly, for the Authoritarian parenting scale, individuals identified as the Middle birth order have the highest mean score of

124.82, while those identified as the younger birth order have the lowest mean score of 95.74. However, the associated

Chi-Square value of 4.539 and a p-value of 0.103 suggest that this difference is also not statistically significant.

Table 5 Comparison of Mean Scores and Chi-Square Values for Paternal Parenting Scales by Birth Order

Scales	Your Birth Order	Mean	Chi-Square	Asymp. Sig.
Permissive	Elder	96.11	4.095	0.129
	Middle	87.12		
	Younger	110.61		
Authoritarian	Elder	108.17	4.539	0.103
	Middle	124.82		
	Younger	95.74		
Authoritative	Elder	98.14	1.250	0.535
	Middle	98.00		
	Younger	107.38		
Warmth	Elder	105.19	.558	0.756
	Middle	109.82		
	Younger	100.31		
Conflict	Elder	111.46	2.961	0.228
	Middle	104.65		
	Younger	96.47		

In the case of the Authoritative, Warmth, and Conflict scales, there are no clear patterns of differences in mean scores across different birth orders. Additionally, none of the Chi-Square values for these scales are statistically significant, as indicated by the associated p-values.

Overall, the results suggest that there are no significant differences in perceptions of paternal parenting styles between individuals of different birth orders. This indicates a degree of homogeneity in perceptions across different birth orders within the sample population.

DISCUSSION

Descriptive Statistics

The descriptive statistics reveal that the sample population is relatively homogenous in terms of age, with the majority of individuals falling within a narrow age range around the mean. This suggests that age-related factors may not significantly confound the relationships examined in the study. However, further analyses may be warranted to explore potential age-related nuances in the variables under investigation.

Relationship between paternal parenting styles and sibling relationship

Overall, the correlation matrix reveals some weak associations between paternal parenting styles and sibling relationship

dimensions. However, only the correlation between Authoritative parenting style and Warmth reaches statistical significance at the 0.05 level, contrary to the null hypotheses formulated for the study. Thus, while some weak relationships exist, the majority of the correlations do not support rejecting the null hypotheses.

In accordance with ⁽¹²⁾, who investigated the effects of parenting styles and involvement in sibling conflict on adolescent sibling relationships, the results of the current study align with their findings regarding the influence of parenting styles on sibling relationship quality. Specifically, our research similarly found that an authoritative parenting style was associated with positive sibling relationship outcomes, such as warmth and support. Additionally, our study contributes to the understanding of parental involvement in sibling conflict by identifying patterns specific to our sample population that is of young adults, thereby reinforcing the idea of indirect and direct relationships between parental behavior and sibling relationship quality. This alignment between our findings and the results of ⁽¹²⁾ strengthens the validity of our conclusions regarding the role of parental factors in shaping sibling dynamics and relationship quality among young adults in India.

Gender Differences

The p-values ranged from 0.086 to 0.531, indicating that gender did not significantly influence perceptions of parental behaviors or sibling relationship dynamics among young adults in India. These findings suggest a degree of homogeneity in the data across gender groups. Despite efforts to replicate previous research findings, our study revealed results that deviated from prior literature on the subject.

Contrary to previous research findings⁽¹³⁾, our study did not reveal statistically significant gender differences in perceptions of paternal parenting styles and sibling relationship dynamics. This suggests that within our sample population, gender may not significantly influence these perceptions. However, further exploration of contextual factors is warranted to better understand the role of gender in shaping familial relationships.

Education level

For the Authoritative, Warmth, and Conflict scales, individuals with post-graduation education generally had higher mean ranks compared to those with under-graduation education. However, none of these differences reached statistical significance, as indicated by the associated U-values and p-values.

Overall, the results suggest that there are no significant differences in perceptions of paternal parenting styles between individuals with post-graduation and under-graduation education levels. This indicates a degree of homogeneity in perceptions across different educational backgrounds within the sample population.

Birth Order

The findings of our research align with previous research⁽¹⁴⁾, suggesting that birth order may not significantly influence perceptions of paternal parenting styles among individuals. Despite variations in mean scores across different birth orders, none of the differences reached statistical significance. This underscores the

complexity of familial relationships and the need for comprehensive investigations to understand the factors shaping individuals' perceptions of parental behaviors. Therefore, both studies suggest a degree of homogeneity in perceptions across different birth orders within their respective sample populations.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the results of this study indicate several key findings regarding the relationship between paternal parenting styles and sibling dynamics among young adults in India. Descriptive statistics revealed no significant differences in perceptions of parenting styles or sibling relationship dynamics across demographic variables such as gender, education level, and birth order, suggesting a degree of homogeneity within the sample population.

Correlation analysis unveiled weak associations between paternal parenting styles and sibling relationship dimensions, with only authoritative parenting showing a statistically significant positive correlation with sibling warmth. This underscores the importance of warmth, responsiveness, and clear expectations in paternal behavior for fostering positive sibling relationships among young adults in India.

While the findings contribute to our understanding of familial dynamics within the Indian cultural context, further research is needed to explore additional factors influencing sibling dynamics and to validate the results across diverse populations and cultural contexts. These insights have practical implications for policymakers, educators, and practitioners seeking to promote healthy family relationships and overall well-being among young adults in India.

This research contributes into various sectors such as Promotion of Authoritative Parenting: The identification of authoritative parenting as a significant predictor of positive sibling relationship outcomes underscores the importance of promoting parenting practices characterized by

warmth, responsiveness, and clear expectations.

Tailored interventions aimed at fostering positive sibling relationships within the Indian cultural context offer substantial benefits for individuals' health and well-being. By prioritizing parental warmth and support while respecting cultural values such as familism and collectivism, these interventions can reduce stress levels, enhance psychological resilience, and promote social connectedness. By nurturing healthy familial dynamics, these interventions contribute to holistic health outcomes and strengthen family bonds within the Indian community.

Declaration by Authors

Ethical Approval: Not Applicable

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