

Parenting and Its Effects on Child Development and Socialization: A Sociological Study of Gobra, Gopalganj, Bangladesh

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Abstract: The aim of this thesis paper is to explore parenting and its effects on child development and socialization. This research has given a new light on how a key aspect of parental care and family functioning matters become an important domain of children's wellbeing. Specifically, how lack of supportiveness in parents' relationship is linked to children's externalizing and internalizing behavioral problems is explained here. An extensive literature has shown that parenting is important for children's outcomes, there has been given much attention to how positive parenting and family dynamics within families may be salient for child development and wellbeing. How does conflicting relation and divorced between father and mother effects on child development and socialization is also discussed in this research paper. For conducting this research work we used questionnaire survey for collecting quantitative data. Therefore, this research study aims to critically explore the present condition of parenting simply known as parent-child relationship on the basis of mutual cooperation, supportiveness, understanding and behavioral attitudes. This study, solely, investigated the relations between the parents and children. Besides it reveals that the children who receive a little care and attention from their parents are more inclined to commit deviant behavior and activities. Findings suggest some significant initiatives to increase parent-child relations.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Family is considered as the primary agent of child development and socialization. Within family parents play an important role in the development of their children [1]. They always keep in touch and maintain attachment with their children [2]. So, it is a normal phenomenon that the children will learn the norms, values, customs, moralities and any other capabilities approved by the society from their parents [3]. Parents are the elementary teacher of a child. For proper development of children, parenting is a concerning issue. Sociologists asked for a question, how the dynamics within families affect children—particularly the extent to which positive parents' relationship is linked with children's outcomes [4]. This research work finds some evidence that parents' relationship quality and children's behavioral problems are reciprocally related. "An extensive sociological literature over many decades examined how family structure and instability are linked to children's wellbeing. Overall, studies suggest that living in a stable parenting-based family is associated with positive development for children" [5]. According to the family systems theory that children's development is primarily related to interactions among other factors within the family. The parents relationship is usually considered as the core of this system, "influencing all aspects of family functioning" [6]. Therefore, children's wellbeing and development is highly dependent on parents' efficiency to communicate effectively and generation of emotional closeness.

"One dimension of children's wellbeing that may be particularly affected by the quality of their parents' relationship is their behavior. Children may learn certain patterns of behavior from observing their parents" [7] "and/or couples' relationship quality may affect the quality of parent-child interactions" [8]. Deviating behavior during childhood has huge impact in later part of life of a child such as dropping out from school and truancy [9], risk of staying jobless after completing education [10] and chance of suffering from mental illness and prone to delinquency [10]. Understanding the extent to which parental relationship quality is linked to behavioral problems may illuminate a key aspect of how stable families contribute to children's long-term success.

Strohschein and Matthew (2015) states that “adolescents who receive parental support and encouragement are less likely to rebel against their parents” [11]. This type of interaction between parents and their children creates an attachment that allows children to feel that their parents really care about them. For the most part, a child would not want to disappoint someone with whom they are connected and by whom they are being brought up. Therefore, disobeying their parents by rebelling would not be an option if this attachment to parents were to exist. This attachment keeps children from participating in actions that they feel or know would disappoint their parents. Equally important, Higgins, Jennings and Mahoney (2010) acknowledge that when parental attachment decreases, the probability of adolescents committing delinquent acts increases. Included in delinquent acts is violent behavior whether that is directed towards parents specifically or others in general [12].

Studies confirmed that the more attachment children have to their parents, the less likely they are to commit delinquent acts, specifically violent acts [13]. Some notable factors affecting parent-children relationships were parental support, encouragement, presence, and monitoring. Without a doubt, parents proved to be the first significant influence in a child's life. Without parental bonds holding the parent-adolescent relationship together, the child will only look elsewhere for approval or simply continue living however seems comfortable at the time. Youth violence remains a concern even after the results of this research [14].

II. METHODOLOGY AND METHODS

We have applied quantitative methodology and employed survey research design for conducting the study. We selected Gobra union of Gopalganj district as the study area. After selecting study area, then the first and foremost element that is required for conducting a research is to identify population and sample size. Based on the report of BBS (2011), a total number of 334 teenagers of age ranged 6 to 18 are located in this region. With a view to choosing a representative sample, data has been collected from 89 respondents among the total number of population 334 [15]. Purposive sampling method has been applied in our research for selecting the sample. For the benefits of my research, questionnaire is used as the main data collection instrument. For collecting the necessary information, a semi-structured questionnaire with a series of close –and open –ended questions are used in this research work.

Since the collected data itself does not contain meaning, the act of data processing and analysis has the objective of bringing meaning to the data and display it to the reader. Though most of the questions in the questionnaire were close-ended, the whole questionnaire was left to appropriate post-coding. After the completion of editing and coding, the filled-in questionnaires were sent for processing.

III. RESULTS

In total, 89 respondents ranging from 5 to 18 years were interviewed. Of them 9.55% were male students and 41.45% were female students. Among the 89 respondents, 45 were primary students, 31 were high school students and 13 were college students.

Table no 1: Soio-economic Background of the Respondents

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender Distribution		
Male	53	59.55
Female	36	41.45
Total	89	100
Educational status		
Primary Student	13	14.60
High School Student	45	50.56
College Student	31	34.83
Total	89	100
Religion		
Islam	63	70.78
Hinduism	26	29.22
Total	89	100
Age		
5-10	18	20.22
10-15	44	49.43
15-18	27	30.34
Total	89	100

Distribution of the respondents on the basis of religion were 63 from Muslim and 26 from Hinduism. In this study, the majority of the respondents (49.43%) were 10-15 years old where 30.34% were 15-20 years old and comparatively the lowest percentage of the students (20.22%) belong to the age group of 5-10 years old.

Table no 2: Monitoring by Parents

Opinion	Count	Percentage
A lot	9	10.11
Somewhat	17	19.10
A little	20	22.49
Not at all	43	48.30

An important role of the parents is to monitor daily activities of their children. Here the table shows the number of the respondents monitored by their parents and it is shown that 10.11% of children parents' monitoring them a lot, 19.10% in somewhat and significantly about 48% children are not monitored by their parents.

Table no 3: Parents quality of time giving tendency and parent's child relation

Purpose	Spending time (Hour)				
	Less than 1	1-2	2-3	More than 3	Not at all
Eating	47	20	0	0	22
Watching TV	7	21	49	12	0
For Recreation	35	13	22	19	0
Home work	27	14	5	0	43

Table no 3 reveals the time giving tendency of the parents to their children. The table shows how many times parents spend on their child respectively in eating, watching TV, for recreation and home work. A total number of 89 respondents were asked about this type of question and a large number of 47 respondents said that their parents spend less than one hours and 20 respondents said one and half hours for eating with them. The amount of time spending by the parents on watching television is also lesser than the above. This is also similar in case of recreation. A large number of 35 respondents said that their parents don't have enough time for spending on recreational purpose for their children. The worst condition is evident in case of home work where a large number of 43 respondents said their parents don't monitor their homework that's why they are getting poor marks in the examination.

Table no 4: Monitoring child spending leisure time by their parents

Agents	Spending time (Hour)				
	Less than 1	1-2	2-3	More than 3	Not at all
With family	47	20	0	0	22
With peer groups	7	21	49	12	0
With others	35	13	22	19	0

Limited parent-child involvement plays a huge role in why adolescents sort to violent behavior. When parents do not give enough time for children then a relationship gap creates between them. This break in attachment supports that once the attachment is broken then adolescents are prone to be deviant. The above table presents the spending leisure time of children monitored by their parents. The table shows how many times children spend respectively with their family, with peer groups and with others. Here a significant number of 47 respondents answered that they spend less than 1 hour with their family and most of the time approximately 2-3 hours spend with their peers. This clearly indicates that most of the parents are careless about their child. Tendency of monitoring child spending leisure time not at all of the parents is also shown in the table.

Table no 5: Behavioral attitude towards child

Patterns of behavior	Frequency
Authoritative	38
Aggressive	9
Love oriented	19
Sensitive	33

Parenting practices and parenting styles to behave with their children also plays an important role in child socialization. To better understand the socialization process it is important to distinguish between parenting practices and parenting styles. Parenting practices are defined as specific behaviors that parents use to socialize their children. For example, when socializing their children to succeed in school, parents might enact certain practices such as doing homework with their children, providing their children with time to read, and attending their children’s school functions. Parenting style can be defined as an emotional climate in which parents raise their children. Table no 5 shows parent’s pattern of behavior towards child. The table shows that the majority of the children 38 face authoritative attitude from their parents. On the contrary, a considerable number of children 33 enjoy sensitive attitude and comparatively 19 children enjoy love oriented and the lowest 9 of child gets aggressive behavior from their parents.

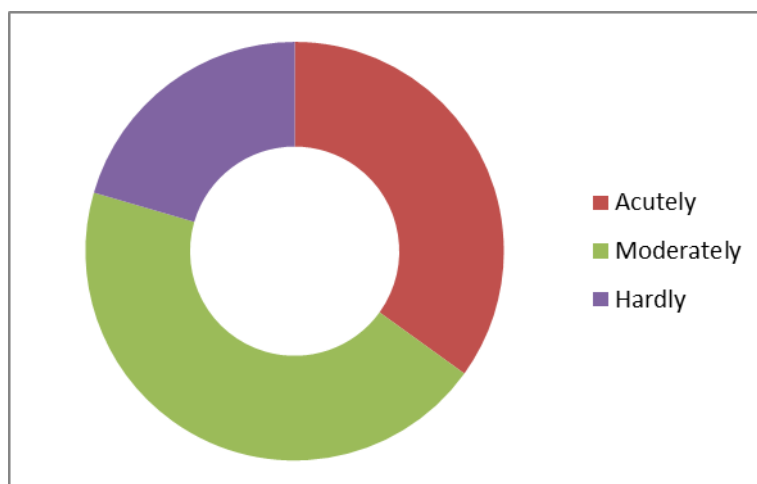


Figure 1: Husband-wife relation vs. child socialization

A large literature, especially in psychology and child development, has examined how parents’ relationship quality is linked to children’s wellbeing. The vast majority of this research has focused on negative features of the couple relationship and has found that higher conflict and discord is associated with higher behavioral problems and maladjustment among children. Also, parental conflict has been cited as an explanation for the effects of divorce and family instability on children. In other words, marital dissolution is associated with diminished child wellbeing in part due to high levels of parental conflict that often ensue in the divorce process. It shows the level of influence of husband-wife relation on child socialization. Among 89 respondents 55 answered acutely, 22 answered moderately and 12 answered hardly influence on their life of their father-mother relationships.

Table no 6: Monitoring child smoking and drug addiction by their parents:

Level of monitoring	Frequency
Strongly	47
Moderately	21
Weakly	21
Not at all	00

Table no 6 reveals level of monitoring child smoking and drug addiction by their parents. The table shows number of 47 parents strongly monitoring their children regarding smoking and drug addiction where 21 parents are monitoring both on the level of moderately and weakly regarding child smoking and drug addiction.

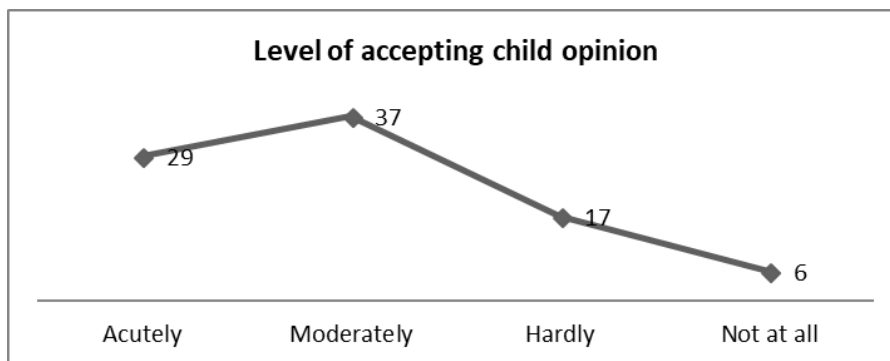


Figure- 2: Level of accepting child opinion

Level of accepting child opinion is also important in terms of child development. If the parents do not prioritize their children personal opinion in some extents then a bilateral relationship builds up between them. The above figure shows the level of accepting child opinion by the parents. A total number of 89 respondents were asked about this where a significant number of 37 respondents said that their parents moderately get emphasize their opinion besides others 17 respondents answered hardly and 6 answered not at all.

Table no 7: Monitoring child engagement in deviant activities by their parents

Level of monitoring	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly	18	20.22
Moderately	20	22.47
Weakly	38	42.70
Not at all	13	14.60

It could be argued that this parent-adolescent bond would not be enough to stop someone from being deviant. That is why parents' presence and monitoring be necessary to keep the attachment between the two. Here this above table presents the levels of monitoring child engagement in antisocial activities by their parents. The table shows number of 18 parents strongly, 20 parents moderately, 38 parents weakly and 38 parents not at all monitor their child engagement in antisocial activities by parents.

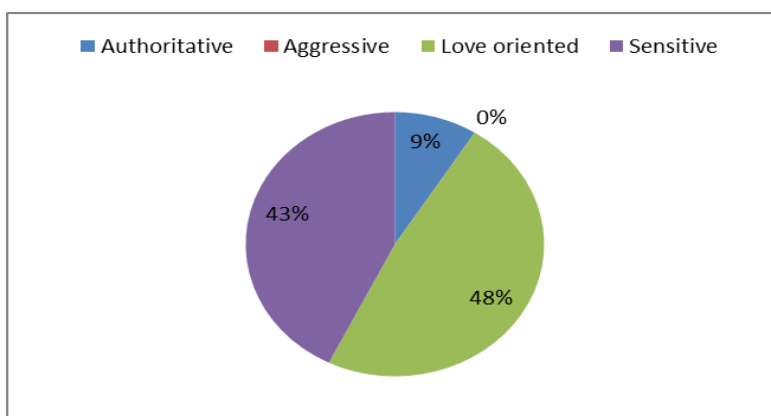


Figure-3: Receiving behavioral attitude by children from their parents

This figure reveals a clear notion about receiving behavioral attitude by the children from their parents where a number of 48 respondents answered that they receive love-oriented behavior and 43 receive sensitive behavior from their parents. A little number of 9 but crucial respondents answered that they receive authoritative attitude from their parents.

Table no 8: Monitoring child school performances by their parents

Level of monitoring	Frequency
Strongly	26
Moderately	33
Weakly	23
Not at all	7

Parenting also depends on how does parents monitor their children school performances and daily activities. If parents spend enough time for their children and properly care of their child then it will create a friendly environment between them. An important way for parents to be involved in the socialization of their children is to monitor their after-school activities, such as monitoring the completion of homework, supervising activities with peers, and checking on school progress. Here the table reveals level of monitoring child school performances by their parents. The table shows number of 26 parents strongly, 33 parents moderately, 23 parents weakly and 7 parents not at all monitor their child school performances.

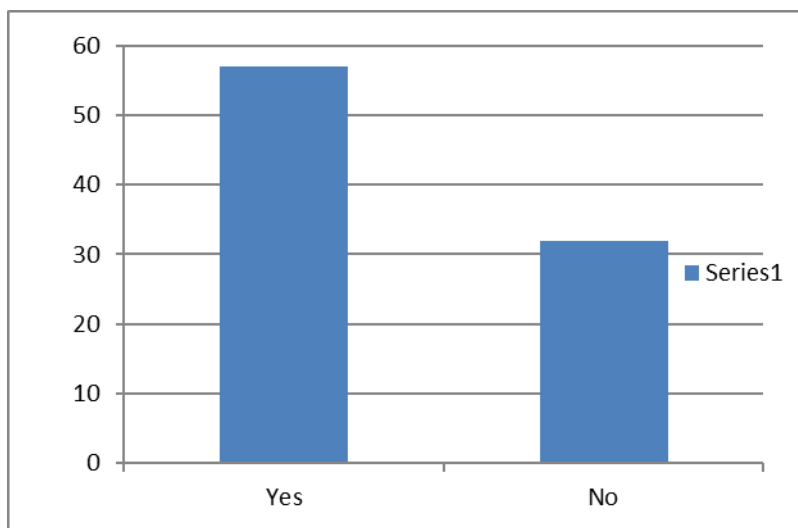


Figure-4: Freedom of opinion of child

The above figure presents the freedom of the child. A number of 89 respondents were asked regarding this question, are their parents prioritizing their personal opinion in daily activities where a number of 57 respondents replied in the affirmative and 32 in the negative. This evidence that all the children in family are not given priority to express their opinion.

Table no 9: Amount of spending time on technology

Time in Hour	Face book	Internet	Others
Less than 1	11	20	31
1-2	20	7	11
2-3	23	9	8
Not at all	35	53	39

Table no 9 shows the spending time of the respondents on using technology. The table presents that, 11 students are using Facebook, 20 students are using internet and 31 students are using other devices less than 1 hour in a day. This indicates that lack of monitoring and time giving tendency by the parents is making room for the children to do such activities.

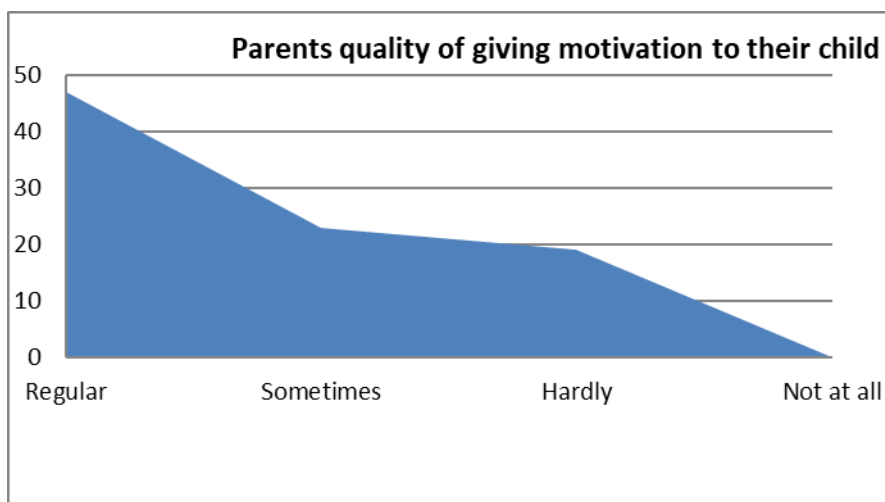


Figure-5: Parents quality of giving motivation to their child

This above figure reveals the parents quality of giving motivation to their child. Above figure shows that majority of the respondents (47) answered that their parents give them motivation regularly. On the contrary, a considerable number of respondents (23) answered sometimes and 19 respondents answered hardly motivated by their parents. However, this above figure indicates a point that not all the parents are sensitive regarding motivation to the children.

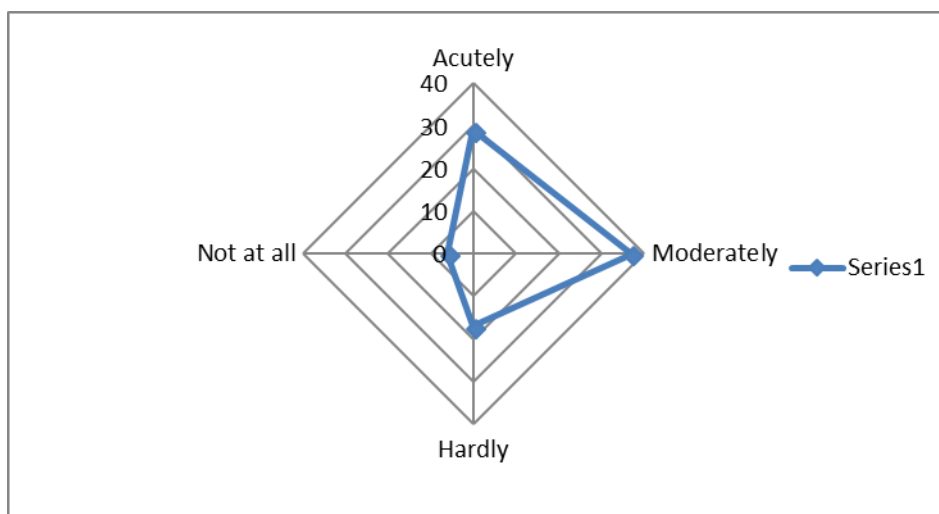


Figure-6: Employment parent's and child development

Nowadays we are seeing that besides husband their wives are involving income related activities. For this reason, parents are becoming detached from their child for a certain period time. As a result, they cannot spare enough time for their child. This above figure shows the influence of employee parents on child development. This research is conducted on 89 respondents and they were asked a question regarding this where a number of 40 respondents answered their parents do not give them enough time because of their activities. They said that, this condition heavily influences on their lives. On the other hand, a less number of respondents (10) answered this condition hardly influences them. So, the results give us an idea that employee parents have great influence on child development.

IV. DISCUSSION

In this study we tended to reflect on parenting and its effects on child socialization and development and examined how parents attitude impact on later life of a children. Specifically, we examined how supportiveness in parents' relationship is linked to children's externalizing and internalizing behavioral problems. While an extensive literature has shown that parenting is important for children's outcomes, there has been given much attention to how positive parenting and family dynamics within *families* may be salient for

child development and wellbeing— at least using a specific number of samples along with analyzing the data with rigorous methods.

The result of the study suggests that there is a significant association between parenting and child development and also explain that parents with more supportive relationships with children results in fewer behavioral problems. This type of parenting also brings positive effects on internalizing and externalizing behavior of a child. Thereafter attachment between parents and children greatly reflects a spurious correlation between these two constructs. The more the parents engaged with their children the less they are being delinquent. Between the years of 6 and 9, parental care and behavioral patterns play a significant role in children's subsequent behavior. For internalizing behaviors, parents' relationship quality was significantly associated with behavior over 9-15 ages.

In this study, the main results relied on the average parental monitoring care, time giving tendency, level of acceptance of child opinion and behavioral patterns that ultimately builds up a pure relationship between them. The results also pointed out the importance of husband wife relationship pattern and its effect on child development. Divorced between father and mother negatively effects on child development is also shown in this study.

Yet, the results extend previous literature by indicating that positive aspects of the parents' couple relationship—such as greater trust, empathy, and effective communication—have beneficial effects for children's externalizing and internalizing behaviors as well. The behavioral patterns that a child learn from their childhood fellowmen would last over a long period of time. If an interruption occurred during childhood period that may reflect on children minds and result in subsequent deviating and abnormal behavior.

V. CONCLUSION

Children are more likely to imitate their parents. They always try to follow the attitudes, thoughts, feelings rules and regulations from their parents. They are bound to obey their parents. They will do the same what is present in their parental attitude. Most of the children have two main educators in their lives—their parents and their early years practitioner/teacher. Services, schools and parents all, therefore, have crucial roles to play.

Parenting style is an important factor in child development and socialization. Socio-emotional development of the child is influenced by the type of parenting style used in families. This study confirmed that the more attachment adolescents have to their parents, the less likely they are to commit delinquent acts, specifically violent acts. Some notable factors affecting parent-adolescent relationships are parental support, encouragement, presence, and monitoring. Without a doubt, parents proved to be the first significant influence in a child's life.

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