Exploring the Relationship between Parenting Styles and Substance abuse among High-School Students in Minab

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ABSTRACT

In this study, the relationship between parenting styles and substance abuse among high-school students was investigated. Multiple regression analysis was used to test the research hypothesis. Participants included 265 high-school students selected randomly from high-s increased schools of Minab city. Data collecting tools of the research included questionnaire for drug and alcohol use and parenting styles. Results indicated that variables included in the model explain 58 percent of the variation in substance abuse. Among the predictor variables, permissive parenting style and authoritarian parenting style have a positive and significant relationship, and authoritative parenting style has a negative and significant relationship with substance abuse.

KEY WORDS: Parenting styles, Substance abuse, High-school students.

INTRODUCTION

Factors that affect upon substance abuse are numerous. Among these factors, family environment and parenting styles are important. Parenting styles is a complex activity that includes many specific behaviors that work individually and together to influence child outcomes. Although specific parenting behaviors, such as spanking or reading aloud, may influence child development, looking at any specific behavior in isolation may be misleading.

Many writers have noted that specific parenting practices are less important in predicting child well-being than is the broad pattern of parenting. Most researchers who attempt to describe this broad parental milieu rely on Diana Baumrind’s concept of parenting style. The construct of parenting style is used to capture normal variations in parents’ attempts to control and socialize their children. Research results indicate students with strong emotional ties to family members are less likely to engage in deviant behavior [1]. Children whose parents do not set clear rules against or do not monitor substance abuse by children could be at greater risk for alcohol use [2].

Researchers characterize parenting styles in four categories: authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglecting [3]. Authoritative parents are controlling and demanding but also warm and sympathetic to the child’s communication [3]. Authoritative parents have a specific combination of demanding behavior; setting and enforcing clear rules, monitoring the child’s behavior, and making maturity demands consistent with the child’s development, and responsive behavior patterns such as showing affection, providing comfort and support, being involved in the child’s academic and social development, and recognizing achievements [2]. Authoritative parents are defined as controlling and detached, less warm and often arbitrary in enforcing discipline. Permissive parents are non-controlling, non-demanding, and relatively warm, in other words, they do not play an active role in guiding or shaping the child’s behavior [3]. Neglecting parents are characterized by being neither demanding nor responsive, they do not structure and monitor and are not supportive [4]. Researchers indicated that parental styles are significant predictors to disruptive behavior, vulnerability, and succumbing to peer pressure, and substance abuse by children and adolescents [5]. A study found that students who smoke and drink perceive their parents as less authoritative than students who do not. The child’s perception of the parents’ demanding behavior, as associated with authoritative parenting, was found to be a strong inverse predictor of the child’s substance abuse [2]. In other words, children that perceives their parents as authoritative use drug and alcohol less than other children. Based on research literature, in present research we try to explore parenting styles relation with substance abuse. Main question of this research is whether there is any significant relation between parenting styles of high-school students and their substance abuse? Based on this question, the purpose of the research is to investigate the relationship between parenting styles and substance abuse among students.

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ISSN 2090-4304
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MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research plan is correlation and the information is collected in a survey. Statistical society of the research includes all male students of high-schools of Minab city in 2010-2011. For selecting the sample we used multilevel random sampling method. Based on this method 265 students were selected. For assessing participant’s parenting styles, we used a measure developed by Lamborn, Mounts, Steinberg, and Dornbusch [6]. According to this scale, Participants were categorized into one of the four parenting styles on two dimensions: strictness/supervision and acceptance/involvement. The strictness/supervision factor assesses parent monitoring and supervision of the adolescent, and has an alpha reliability of .76 [6]. The acceptance/involvement scale measures the extent to which the adolescent perceives his or her parents as loving and responsive, and has reliability alpha of.72 [6]. Each item is rated on a 5-point Likert scale ranged from completely agree to completely disagree. Higher score in each subscale represent the dominant parenting style. For measuring Substance abuse we used Persian version of alcohol and drug Abuse Survey questionnaire [7]. Method of responding was offered as yes-no questions or multiple choices. The questionnaire was designed in USA and is conducted in two million teenage, and includes items about different kinds of addictive and illegal drugs, the age of beginning the use, place of use, and so on. Alpha reliability of subscales varied from 0.74 to 0.83.

Multiple regression analyses were used to explain and predict criterion variable by the use of predictor variables. For assessing significance of regression model we used F test, and statistical T test was used to determine significance of Beta coefficients. All of the statistical calculations were done by the use of SPSS statistical software version 18.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

For explaining substance abuse variable, authoritative parenting style, permissive parenting style and authoritarian parenting styles predictor variables were assessed. Mean descriptive index and standard deviation of every variable is presented in table 1. Averages substance abuse among under study students in recent 6 month was 3.81 times (table 1). Furthermore, for inferential analyzing of research data, we should calculate correlation matrix of predictor variables and criterion variable. Correlation matrix of study variables are presented in table 2. Based on this matrix authoritative parenting style has the highest negative correlation coefficient, and permissive parenting style has the highest positive correlation coefficient with substance abuse. The present study objective was to show a significant relation between parenting styles and substance abuse. Hence, in under study model we used parenting styles as predictor variables and substance abuse as criterion variable. After analyzing regression on research data, we observed the model under study explains about 58 percent of criterion variable variance. We used statistical test of variance analysis to determine significance of R², in which F=68.87 is statistically significant (P<0.05). Detailed results are presented in table 3. As it is shown in table 3, we used statistical T test to calculate significance of calculated Beta coefficient of every predictor variable of the model. The results show that authoritative parenting style with beta -0.81 is negative predictor and permissive parenting style with beta 0.47 and authoritarian parenting style with beta 0.42 are positive predictors of substance abuse.

Table 1. Mean and standard deviation of predictor variables and criterion variable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>3.81</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APS</td>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>1.39</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUPS</td>
<td>4.73</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPS</td>
<td>5.13</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SA= Substance abuse, APS= Authoritative Parenting Style, AUPS = Authoritarian Parenting Styles, PPS = Permissive Parenting Style

Table 2. Correlation matrix of predictor variables and criterion variable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>APS</th>
<th>AUPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>-0.65*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APS</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td></td>
<td>-0.27*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUPS</td>
<td>0.55*</td>
<td>-0.06</td>
<td>0.24*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SA= Substance abuse, APS= Authoritative Parenting Style, AUPS = Authoritarian Parenting Styles, PPS = Permissive Parenting Style. P<0.01**, P<0.05*.  

Table 3: amount of R, R², β, and significance test in under study model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equation constant</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>T value</th>
<th>Significant level</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>R²</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Significant level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equation constant</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8.29</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>68.87</td>
<td>0.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>APS</td>
<td>-0.83</td>
<td>-0.81</td>
<td>2.64</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUPS</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>2.87</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPS</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>3.45</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APS= Authoritative Parenting Style, AUPS = Authoritarian Parenting Styles, PPS = Permissive Parenting Style.
Main purpose of this research is about relationship between parenting styles and substance abuse amongst students. As it was mentioned in finding section, statistical analysis showed authoritative parenting style was negative predictor and permissive parenting style and authoritarian parenting style was positive predictor of substance abuse. Finding of the research is similar to researches that report less substance abuse among those with authoritative parents [4]. Similar to previous research, permissive parenting style and authoritarian parenting style were positive and significant predictors of substance abuse. [4, 8, 9].

Generally, parenting style provides a strong indicator of parenting functioning that predicts adolescence development outcomes across a wide spectrum of environments and across diverse communities. Both parental responsiveness and parental demandingness are important components of good parenting. Authoritative parenting, which balances clear, high parental demands with emotional responsiveness and recognition of child autonomy, is one of the most consistent family predictors of competence from early childhood through adolescence.[10, 11, 12].

However, this study has a number of limitations. Using self-reported questionnaires and probable deficiencies of the tools and limiting statistic society of the research to male high-school students of Minab city, can be regarded as limits of this research. On the other hand, because of law and social limits of the research about substance abuse, collected information may be in risk of participant’s biases. So in generalizing the results of the research these limits must be considered. Furthermore, it’s suggested that future researches explore relation between parent styles and other variables such as smoking behavior, self-efficacy and academic performance.

REFERENCES