

Parenting styles of parents of rural and urban preschool children: Child correlated factors

¹Ashwini V Yankati and ²Manjula Patil

¹Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Community Science, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka, India

²Associate Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Community Science, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka, India

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26180723.2024.v7.i3e.445>

Corresponding Author: Ashwini V Yankati

Abstract

A study was conducted to assess parenting styles of mothers of rural and urban preschool children: child correlated factors during 2020-2023 at UAS, Dharwad. The sample of the study comprised of 200 parents (100 rural and 100 urban) having children of age between 3-6 years attending Anganwadi and nursery school preschool children. The correlational research design was used to know relationship between parenting styles and factors related to rural and urban children. Robinson's parenting style tool developed was used to measure the parenting style and self-structured questionnaire was used to gather information of children. The chi-square and t-test method were used for data analysis. The results revealed that, most of parents (45.5%) had authoritarian parenting style, (42.00%) of parents had authoritative parenting style and only (12.50%) of them had permissive parenting style. There was significant mean difference found between parenting styles with rural and urban children. Among them authoritative was most preferred parenting style for rural children and authoritarian parenting styles was most preferred for urban children. Among rural and urban, majority of parents with children of age between (3-4 years and 4-5 years) had preferred authoritative parenting style whereas more than half of children age between 5-6 years had parents preferred with authoritarian parenting style and had significant association (3.84*) was observed. The findings also highlighted with gender that, a significant association (2.18*) was found among male children's parents of both rural and urban had preferred authoritarian parenting style whereas female children's parents had preferred authoritative parenting style. In rural and urban, younger children's parents had found to be authoritative parenting style whereas older children's parents had found to be authoritarian parenting style. In both rural and urban, male children's parents had found to prefer authoritarian parenting style whereas female children's parents had found follow authoritative parenting style.

Keywords: Parenting style, authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, preschool children

Introduction

Being a parent and raising children is an exciting and enjoyable experience in which both mothers and fathers play crucial roles. However, due to various overlapping reasons, parents' approaches to child-rearing may differ. The manner in which a parent raises their child is considered their parenting style, influenced by cultural, social, political, economic factors, personality type, psychological state, a child's behaviour, education, and socio-economic status. Parenting style has been defined as a "constellation of attitudes towards the child that are communicated to it and create a specific emotional climate". The most widely recognized parenting model, proposed by Baumrind (1975) [4], outlines authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive styles. Authoritative parents are responsive to their child's needs while demanding and encouraging disciplined compliance. Authoritarian parents exhibit low responsiveness, high control, and demand obedience.

Permissive parents demonstrate high responsiveness without imposing control or demands.

Addressing various parenting styles, authoritative parenting is widely regarded as the most optimal, given its significant impact on children's development. Parenting styles play a crucial role in shaping children's behaviour, achievement, and intelligence, as well as determining aspects of optimism, externalizing problem behaviour, attention problems, and creativity. A protective parenting style is associated with anticipating children's social adequacy, educational progress, and mental health in the future. Parents have come to realize they don't have to strictly adhere to one type of parenting style, as they might have felt compelled to do before the pandemic, possibly leaning more towards authoritarian or permissive approaches.

Parenting is a bidirectional process, with influences flowing between parents and children. Various child-related factors, such as gender, identity, birth order, temperament, and

sibling constellation, can significantly impact child-rearing behaviors and roles. Some parents assign different household chores based on their children's gender identity, with girls often tasked with caring for younger siblings and indoor chores, while boys are more likely to be assigned outdoor tasks such as mowing the lawn. This allocation of tasks can affect sibling relationships, leading to fewer joint activities but higher involvement in emotional exchanges and warmth, with less intensity of conflict and rivalry. Despite these traditional roles, there have been changes in the dynamics of sibling relationships over time. Research suggests that parents communicate differently with their children, providing more explanations or emotion-oriented language.

Therefore, the present study, titled "Parenting styles of mothers of rural and urban preschool children: child correlated factors," aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To examine the differences in parenting styles between rural and urban children.
2. To know the influence of child factors on parental styles among rural and urban parents

Materials and Methods

Research design: A differential research design was employed to study the difference between parenting styles of rural and urban preschool children. A correlational research design was used to know relationship between parenting styles and child factors.

Population and sample of the study

The sample of the study comprised of 200 parents and their children of aged between 3 to 6 years residing in rural and urban areas of Bagalkot and Dharwad taluks of Bagalkot and Dharwad districts. From each taluka three villages were selected and from urban localities, 10 to 15 children from all age cohorts (3-4 years, 4-5 years, and 5-6 years) were selected from Anganwadi Centres and kindergarten schools. Thus, in total 100 children from rural areas and 100 children from urban areas were selected. Later, mothers of these children was interviewed through home visits to obtain necessary information.

Statistical analysis of the data

Chi-square test was applied to find out the association between child factors and parenting styles of rural and urban areas. The t-test was used to know the differences in parenting styles between urban and rural preschool children

Tools used for assessment

Self-structured questionnaire

The self-structured questionnaire is used to gather general information on age, gender, ordinal position and sibling constellation of rural and urban children.

Parenting practices: Parenting style will be assessed by using tool developed by Robison *et al.* (2005)^[14]. The scale used to measure the parenting style (authoritative, authoritarian and permissive) based on responses of parent to the self-reported questionnaire consists of 30 statements to be ranked on five-point likert scale ranging from 'never' to 'always' (authoritative-13 items, authoritarian-13 items and permissive-4 items). The scores are added up and

divided for each parenting style to get mean scores for each parenting style. The highest mean scores indicate preferred parenting styles of an individual parenting style.

Results and Discussion

The results of the table 1 shows percentage distribution of child characteristics of rural and urban areas. Among the rural children, around 36.00 percent of them were aged between 4-5 years, while 34.00 percent of children were aged between 3-4 years and the remaining 30.00 percent were aged between 5-6 years. These results indicate that the majority (57.00%) of rural children were girls, while 43.00 percent were boys. In terms of ordinal position, it was observed that 44.00 percent of the children were first-born, 37.00 percent were second-born, and 19.00 percent were the last or third-born child. Regarding sibling constellation, 37.00 percent of the children had an elder sister-younger sister, while 25.00 percent had a sibling combination of an elder sister-younger brother. Additionally, 23.00 percent had an elder brother-younger brother as siblings, while a smaller percentage (17.00%) had an elder brother- younger sister. It's important to note that all the children received offline education. With relation to urban areas, around 36.00 percent of children aged 4-5 years, 34.00 percent aged 3-4 years and 30.00 percent aged 5-6 years. Among the children, the majority, at 53.00 percent, are boys, while 47.00 percent are girls. Concerning birth order, 47.00 percent are firstborn, (38.00%) are second-born, and (15.00%) are third-born. In terms of sibling constellations, 33.00 percent of children are part of an elder sister -younger brother combination, 31.00 percent belong to an elder brother -younger brother combination, 22.00 percent are in an elder sister -younger sister combination, and 15.00 percent are part of an elder brother -younger sister combination.

A close perusal of table 2, reveals association and comparison between parenting style of rural and urban parents. It was observed among rural preschool children that, majority of (53.00%) of children whose parents had preferred authoritative parenting style, followed by 37.00 percent of children whose parents had preferred authoritarian parenting style and only 10.00 percent of parents had preferred permissive parenting style. While among urban children, it was found that, most of (54.00%) parents had used authoritarian parenting style, followed by 31.00 percent of them had used authoritative parenting style and 15.00 percent of children whose parents were preferred permissive parenting style. On overall higher percentage of preschool children whose parents (45.50%) had used authoritarian parenting style, followed by 42.00 percent of parents were used authoritative parenting style and around 12.50 percent of parents had used permissive parenting style. The chi-square value reveals there was significant association (10.03*) was observed between parenting styles of rural and urban parents. In both rural and urban settings, parents are increasingly concerned about their child's well-being due to a decline in interest in activities outside the home like going to school or parks. This lack of engagement leads to poor social interaction and places greater responsibility on parents. Juggling work, health concerns, financial difficulties, and domestic issues, some parents adopt strict disciplinary measures, becoming more

authoritative or authoritarian in handling their children's affairs.

Table 1: Percentage distribution of child characteristics of rural and urban area N=200

Variable	Categories	Rural	Urban	Total
Age	3-4 years	34 (34.0)	34 (34.0)	68(68.0)
	4-5 years	36(36.0)	36(36.0)	72(72.0)
	5-6 years	30(30.0)	30(30.0)	60(60.0)
Gender	Male	43(43.0)	53(53.0)	96(48.0)
	Female	57(57.0)	47(47.0)	104(52.0)
Ordinal position	First born	44(44.0)	47(47.0)	91(91.0)
	Second born	37(37.0)	38(38.0)	75(75.0)
	Later born	19(19.0)	15(15.0)	34(34.0)
Sibling constellation	EB x YB	23(23.0)	30(31.0)	53(26.5)
	ES x YS	35(35.0)	22(22.0)	57(28.5)
	EB x YS	17(17.0)	15(15.0)	32(16.0)
	ES x YB	25(25.0)	33(33.0)	58(29.0)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Table 2: Association between parenting styles of rural and urban preschool children N=200

Locality	Parenting styles				Modified (χ ²)
	Authoritative (n=84)	Authoritarian (n=91)	Permissive (n=25)	Total	
Rural (n=100)	53 (53.00)	37 (37.00)	10 (10.00)	100 (100.00)	10.03*
Urban (n=100)	31 (31.00)	54 (54.00)	15 (15.00)	100 (100.00)	

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage, *Significant at 0.05 level

Table 3: Comparison of mean scores of parenting styles of rural and urban parents N=200

Variables	Rural		Urban		t-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Authoritative (n=84)	37.50	9.72	32.15	12.00	5.11*
Authoritarian (n=91)	25.00	9.34	34.93	13.25	6.12**
Permissive(n=25)	15.98	4.59	16.15	4.15	0.22 ^{NS}

*Significant at 0.05 level

The close perusal of table 1 highlights association between parenting styles of rural and urban preschool children by age. among rural children, majority of children's parents of age between 3-4 years and 4-5 years had parents were preferred authoritative parenting style (61.80% and 63.90%). Whereas more than half of children age between 5-6 years their parents preferred authoritarian (73.3%). On overall there was a significant association (3.84*) between parenting style among rural children with their age. The results were similar with results of the study by Pooja and Bhavani (2021) [11] and Kodati *et al.* (2023) [8] who reported a significant association between parenting styles and age of children, indicating that parents of children aged 3-4 years who preferred authoritative parenting styles and parents of children aged 5-6 years who preferred authoritarian parenting styles. In contrast with urban children, among them most of children of age (3-4 years and 4-5 years) and their parents was found to preferred authoritative parenting style (52.9% and 58.3%), Whereas more than half of children age between 5-6 years their parents preferred authoritarian parenting style (50.0%). The findings are line with study reported by Attokaran *et al.* (2020) [2] found that there was non-significant relationship between parenting styles with age of urban children. Whereas both rural and urban young children those parents preferred authoritative and authoritarian parenting styles. In a recent study of rural and urban children, it was found that younger children

The results of table 3 also shows comparison of parenting styles between rural and urban parents. Among them authoritative parenting style (37.50) was most preferred parenting style for rural children whereas authoritarian parenting style (34.93) was most preferred parenting style for urban children compared to rural children. The chi-square value showed significant association between parenting style of rural and urban parents. These are in line with study conducted by Arti *et al.* (2019) [1] found that there was a significant difference found between parenting styles. Thus, the most of the urban parents practicing authoritarian (37.0%) parenting style and rural parents had practised authoritative parenting style (34.0%). The studies were supported by Swaroopa and Anuradha (2016) [12] and Becca *et al.* (2022) [5] reported that, majority of parents were preferred authoritative parenting style (64.0%) and remaining parents (36.00%) were employed authoritarian parenting style.

tended to be noisy, seek constant attention, demand what they wanted, and show jealousy towards their siblings, while older children displayed more aggressive, hyperactive, and tantrum-prone behaviours. As a result, parents tended to use authoritative parenting for younger children and authoritarian style for older ones.

The results presented in the table 2 shows association between parenting styles of rural and urban preschool children by gender. Among rural children, majority of male children parents preferred authoritarian parenting style (70.20%). Whereas 60.50 percent of female children's parents were preferred authoritative parenting style. The chi-square value revealed non-significant association between parenting styles and gender of preschool children. with relation to urban children, a significant association (2.18*) between parenting style urban children with their gender. It was observed that, majority of male children parents preferred authoritarian parenting style with 52.90 percent and half of the female children's (50.00%) parents had preferred authoritative parenting style. The results supported by study conducted by Azkeskin *et al.* (2018) [3] found that there was significant association was found, among them boy's parents had preferred authoritarian parenting style but for girl's parents preferred authoritative parenting style.

The findings illustrated in table 3 highlights association between parenting styles of rural and urban preschool children by ordinal position. Among rural children, most of (54.54%) first-born children's parents had preferred an authoritative parenting style. In contrast, among parents of second-born children (56.75%) practiced authoritative parenting. Among parents of later-born children, (52.63%) employed an authoritarian parenting style. Although, a statistically non-significant association was observed among the parenting styles of rural parents. With shifting to urban children, the majority of parents of all three-ordinal position

(63.82%, 44.73%, and 46.66%, respectively) favoured an authoritarian parenting style, Whereas the table also reveals a significant value (6.44*) was found between the gender of the child and parenting styles. The study by Maryam *et al.* (2022) [10] reported that a significant relationship was found, however, parents of first and second born children had preferred authoritarian parenting style. The present study noticed that young children's mental health was negatively impacted. Family disconnection decreased children's ability to engage in positive social behaviours and increased negative feelings about socializing. Additionally, parenting styles were influenced by the order of children within the family.

The findings of the table 3 reveals association between parenting styles of rural and urban preschool children by sibling constellation. Among rural children for all sibling combinations, the majority of parents (43.15%, 48.63%, 63.72%, and 60.00%) favoured an authoritative parenting style. The chi-square value revealed a non-significant association between parenting styles and sibling constellations among rural preschool children. In contrast, the urban area a significant association (5.80*) was observed between parenting styles and preschool children's sibling constellations. For all sibling combination pairs, most of them (46.78%, 68.27%, 80.00% and 39.41%) of the parents were authoritarian parents. The studies were supported by Mahadevi *et al.* (2011) [9] reported that all sibling combination paired had parents with using authoritarian parenting style. The present study justified as there was sibling adjustment issues pre-post covid pandemic. The understanding between sibling dyads is cultural differences in their thinking abilities. Due to school closures were reported to have negative and positive effects on sibling relationship quality.

The study findings of the table 3 association between parenting styles and ordinal position among rural and urban children by age. Among all age groups, the children from aged 3-4 years (6.22*) and 5-6 years (7.77*) showed significant association between parenting styles and ordinal position. Among children of aged 3-4 years, (63.20% and 60.00%) of first and later born children's parents had used authoritarian parenting styles. While, for ordinal position of children of 5-6 years, higher percentage of first (53.0%) and later born (57.80%) children's parents had used authoritarian parenting style and remaining (38.50% and 42.90%) of children's parents had preferred authoritative parenting style. The study was supported by Ekeh *et al.* (2016) [6] reported that among children of first born and

third born children their parents had opted authoritarian parenting styles.

The findings of table 3 shows association between parenting styles and ordinal position among rural and urban children by gender. Among rural children, most of first-born boys (71.30%) had parents preferred authoritative parenting style. whereas second born and later born boys children's parents (71.4% and 60.10%) had practised authoritarian parenting style. Among girls, the higher percentage (55.60%) of first-born girl's parents had preferred authoritative parenting style and majority of second and later born girl's parents (68.80% and 55.40%) had used authoritarian parenting style. However, chi-square value revealed a significant association (7.77*) was observed between parenting styles and ordinal position of rural preschool children by gender. In contrast with urban children, most of boys who were first born had parents prefer authoritative parenting style. While second and later born children parents were authoritarian. However, chi-square value shows significant association was observed between parenting styles and ordinal position among urban girls. The results were supported by study Yulina *et al.* (2017) [13] where results indicated that, Chinese girl children who were first born their parents were authoritative parenting style whereas second and third born Taiwanese girl children their parented had preferred authoritarian parenting style. In contrast to urban boys, there was significant association (5.54*) was observed between parenting styles and ordinal position of urban preschool children. The higher portion of first-born boy's parents (55.60%) were opted for authoritative parenting style. While second born boy's parents were used authoritarian parenting style with 64.20 percent. Consequently, majority of girls who were first (50.00%), second (52.40%) and later born (75.00%) their parents had opted authoritative parenting style. However, there was non-significant association was found between parenting styles and ordinal position of urban preschool girl children. These results were in line with study Ghautia and Farzana (2023) [7] highlighted that male children who were first born their parents were perceived democratic parenting style whereas middle born male children their parents perceived autocratic parenting style, while last born parents either democratic nor autocratic parenting style. In present study it was noticed that, rural parents were sensible in handling children. As girls were sensitive as they need lot emotional needs, love, care and affection but boys were naughty and mischievous and not able listen to parents were became authoritarian hence, the parents use different parenting style for boys and girls.

Table 4: Association between parenting styles among rural and urban preschool children by age N=200

Variable	Categories	Rural				Modified (χ ²)	Urban				Modified (χ ²)
		Parenting style					Parenting style				
		Authoritative	Authoritarian	permissive	Total		Authoritative	Authoritarian	Permissive	Total	
Age	3-4 years	21 (61.8)	12 (35.3)	1 (2.9)	34 (100)	3.84*	18 (52.9)	9 (26.5)	7 (20.6)	34 (100)	0.57 ^{NS}
	4-5years	23 (63.9)	10 (27.8)	3 (8.3)	36 (100)		21 (58.3)	8 (22.2)	7 (19.4)	36 (100)	
	5-6years	8 (26.7)	22 (73.3)	-	30 (100)		8 (26.7)	15 (50.0)	7 (23.3)	30 (100)	

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage, *Significance at 0.05 level

Table 5: Association between parenting styles among rural and urban preschool children by gender N=200

Variable	Categories	Rural				Modified (χ ²)	Urban				Modified (χ ²)
		Parenting style					Parenting style				
		Authoritative	Authoritarian	Permissive	Total		Authoritative	Authoritarian	Permissive	Total	
Gender	Boys	16 (28.1)	40 (70.2)	1 (1.8)	57 (100)	0.48 ^{NS}	11 (23.4)	27 (52.9)	9 (19.1)	47 (100)	2.18*
	Girls	26 (60.5)	14 (32.6)	3 (7.0)	43 (100)		27 (50.9)	14 (26.4)	12 (22.6)	53 (100)	

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage, *Significance at 0.05 level

Table 6: Association of between parenting styles of rural and urban preschool children by ordinal position N=200

Ordinal position	Rural (n=100)				Modified (χ ²)	Urban (n=100)				Modified (χ ²)
	Parenting style					Parenting style				
	Authoritative	Authoritarian	Permissive	Total		Authoritative	Authoritarian	Permissive	Total	
First born	24 (54.54)	18 (40.90)	2 (4.54)	44 (100.00)	8.26 ^{NS}	14 (29.78)	30 (63.82)	3 (6.38)	47 (100.00)	6.44*
Second born	21 (56.75)	9 (24.32)	7 (18.91)	37 (100.00)		13 (34.21)	17 (44.73)	8 (21.05)	38 (100.00)	
Third born	8 (42.10)	10 (52.63)	1 (5.26)	19 (100.00)		4 (26.66)	7 (46.66)	4 (26.66)	15 (100.00)	
Total	53 (100.00)	37 (100.00)	10 (100.00)	100 (100.00)		31 (100.00)	54 (100.00)	15 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage, NS-Non-significant, *Significance at 0.05 level

Table 7: Association of between parenting styles of parents of rural and urban preschool children by sibling constellation N=200

sibling constellation	Rural (n=100)				Modified (χ ²)	Urban (n=100)				Modified (χ ²)
	Parenting style					Parenting style				
	Authoritative	Authoritarian	Permissive	Total		Authoritative	Authoritarian	Permissive	Total	
EB x YB	10 (43.51)	9 (39.12)	4 (17.44)	23 (100.00)	4.61 ^{NS}	12 (40.00)	14 (46.78)	4 (13.32)	30 (100.00)	5.80*
ES x YS	17 (48.63)	14 (40.04)	4 (11.40)	35 (100.00)		7 (31.83)	15 (68.27)	-	22 (100.00)	
EB x YS	11 (64.72)	6 (35.35)	-	17 (100.00)		2 (13.35)	12 (80.05)	1 (6.70)	15 (100.00)	
ES x YB	15 (60.00)	8 (32.00)	2 (8.00)	25 (100.00)		10 (30.33)	13 (39.41)	10 (30.37)	33 (100.00)	
Total	53 (100.00)	37 (100.00)	10 (100.00)	100 (100.00)		31 (100.00)	54 (100.00)	15 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage, NS-Non-significant, *Significance at 0.05 level
(EB=Elder brother, YB=younger brother, ES=Elder sister and YS= Younger sister)

Table 8: Association between parenting styles and ordinal position among rural and urban preschool children by age N=200

Categories	Ordinal position	Rural				Modified (χ ²)	Urban				Modified (χ ²)
		Parenting style					Parenting style				
		Authoritative	Authoritarian	Total	Modified (χ ²)		Authoritative	Authoritarian	Total	Modified (χ ²)	
3-4 years	First born	7 (36.8)	12 (63.2)	19 (100)	6.22*	10 (58.8)	7 (41.2)	17 (100)	7.96 ^{NS}		
	Second born	6 (60.0)	4 (40.0)	10 (100)		5 (62.5)	2 (25.0)	7 (100)			
	Later born	1 (20.0)	3 (60.0)	4 (100)		2 (22.2)	4 (44.4)	6 (100)			
4-5 years	First born	2 (18.2)	9 (81.8)	11 (100)	0.69 ^{NS}	2 (18.2)	9 (81.8)	11 (100)	4.34 ^{NS}		
	Second born	4 (33.3)	8 (66.7)	12 (100)		4 (33.3)	8 (66.7)	15 (100)			
	Later born	2 (26.7)	5 (73.3)	7 (100)		2 (26.7)	5 (73.3)	7 (100)			
5-6 years	First born	5 (38.5)	7 (53.8)	10 (100)	7.77*	6 (31.6)	11 (10.5)	17 (100)	5.14 ^{NS}		
	Second born	13 (81.3)	1 (6.3)	14 (100)		2 (22.2)	3 (20.0)	5 (100)			
	Later born	3 (42.9)	4 (57.1)	7 (100)		2 (100)	-	2 (100)			

Note: For analysis only two parenting styles (Authoritative and Authoritarian) were considered as there were only few samples in the permissive parenting style.

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage, NS-Non-significant, *Significance at 0.05 level

Table 9: Association between parenting styles and ordinal position among rural and urban children by gender N=200

Gender	Ordinal Position	Rural			Modified (χ^2)	Urban			Modified (χ^2)
		Parenting style				Parenting style			
		Authoritative	Authoritarian	Total		Authoritative	Authoritarian	Total	
Boys	First born	19 (73.1)	7 (26.9)	26 (100)	4.19 ^{NS}	15 (55.6)	8 (29.6)	26 (100)	5.54*
	Second born	6 (28.6)	15 (71.4)	21 (100)		5 (35.7)	9 (64.2)	14 (100)	
	Later born	4 (30.3)	6 (60.1)	10 (100)		-	6 (100)	6 (100)	
Girls	First born	10 (55.6)	8 (38.9)	18 (100)	7.99*	13 (50.0)	9 (34.6)	26 (100)	1.25 ^{NS}
	Second born	5 (18.8)	11 (68.8)	16 (100)		11 (52.4)	10 (38.1)	21 (100)	
	Later born	4 (44.4)	5 (55.6)	9 (100)		4 (75.0)	2 (19.50)	6 (100)	

Note: For analysis only two parenting styles (Authoritative and Authoritarian) were considered as there were only few samples in the permissive parenting style.

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage, NS-Non-significant, *Significance at 0.

Conclusion and recommendations

The most of rural and urban parents preferred authoritative parenting style over authoritarian parenting style. Analysis showed a significant association and difference were observed between the parenting styles of rural and urban parents, as it highlighting the crucial need for educating parents in utilizing the appropriate parenting approach that fosters positive well-being in children. Among rural children age between 3-4 years had parents who prefer authoritative parenting style, while for older children age between 5 to 6 years, parents tended to prefer authoritarian parenting style, because children at these ages are sensitive and delicate, requiring guidance from their parents for optimal upbringing. Both boys' and girls' parents from rural and urban areas were found to prefer authoritarian parenting style, as it is essential for parents to understand their children's strengths and abilities. Adopting an authoritative style is often recommended to establish a solid foundation for their development. The results also revealed that in urban areas, most first-born children and all sibling pairs had parents who practiced authoritarian parenting style. Therefore, parents invest significant time in interacting with their children, focusing on emotional support, effective communication and paying attention to their daily lives to promote holistic growth. Thus, it is important to promote positive parenting programs and interventions that offer comprehensive support and guidance to parents on effective parenting practices and responsibilities for nurturing healthy children.

References

1. Arti, Kavita, Tarundeep S. Parenting style among parents of toddler and preschool children. *Res J Nurs Midwifery*; c2019. [Internet] Available from: <https://doi.org/10.33698/NRF0285>
2. Attokaran T, Gnanaselvam NA, Siby C, Joseph PT, John J, Gonsalves J. Parenting styles of parents with one to five-year children attending Government Taluk Hospital, Anekal, Karnataka. *Int. J Med Sci. Public Health*. 2020;9(3):219-223.

3. Azkeskin E, Gulcin G, Melda G. Parenting styles: parents with 5-6-year-old children. *J Educ. Instr. Stud World*. 2018;3(1):74-84.
4. Baumrind D. Effects of authoritative parental control on child behaviour. *Child Dev*. 1975;3(7):887-907.
5. Becca ER. Maternal Education and Changes in Parenting Beliefs, Values, and Practices. All Graduate Theses and Dissertations; c2022. [Internet] Available from: <https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/etd/8484>
6. Ekeh I, Felix E. Parenting Styles and Birth Order as Determinants of Social Adjustment of Secondary School Students. *Int J Novel Res Educ Learn*. 2016;3(6):89-95.
7. Ghausia, Farzana. Birth order determining the perception of parenting style among female adolescents in relation to their family type. *J Res Appl Sci Eng Technol*. 2023. [Internet] Available from: <https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2023.56532>
8. Kodati S, Uloopi KS, Vinay C. Impact of Parenting Style on Child's Behaviour and Caries Experience in 3-6-year-old Children: A Cross-sectional Study. *Int J Clin Paediatr Dent*. 2023;4(2):276-279.
9. Mahdavi P. Inflexible citizenship and flexible practices among migrants in the Gulf. *Migrant Domestic Workers in the Middle East*. 2011;2(3):75-93.
10. Maryam ZN, Jaana V, Nina S, Kaisa A, Kristiina L. The impact of children's socioemotional development on parenting styles: the moderating effect of social withdrawal. *Early Child Dev Care*. 2022;192(7):1032-1044.
11. Pooja AS, Bhavani BB. Parenting styles and social-emotional development of preschool children. *Int. J Contemp Pediatr*. 2021;8(12):16-25.
12. Swaroopa RB, Anuradha K. Parenting styles adopted by mothers of pre-school children according to child variable. *Int J Home Sci*. 2017;3(1):173-176.
13. Yulina E, Riany, Cuskelly M, Meredith P. Parenting style among Indonesian parents of a child with autism spectrum disorder: associations with socio-economic

- status and social supports. *J Dev Phys Disabil.* 2019;3(1):1-17.
14. Mazei-Robison MS, Couch RS, Shelton RC, Stein MA, Blakely RD. Sequence variation in the human dopamine transporter gene in children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. *Neuropharmacology.* 2005;49(6):724-36.