

Parenting styles and their influence on behavioural problems of children aged between 10 to 14 years in the Nallur DS division

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Background: Little is known about the influence of parenting styles in behavioural problems of children in Sri Lanka. This is the first research study conducted in Sri Lanka. The objective of the study is to assess the parenting styles and to assess influence of parenting styles on the behavioural problems of children aged between 10 to 14 years in the Nallur Divisional Secretariat.

Method: A community based descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted on 730 mothers of children aged between 10 to 14 children. The cluster sampling technique was used to determine actual total population size of the study. As follow the interview object were collected from 14 clusters. Two interviewer administered questionnaires were used (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, parenting styles and dimensions questionnaire to assess the parenting styles and behavioural problems of children respectively).

Results: This study shows that there was a statistically significant association between parenting styles and behavioural problems. Most of the mothers had authoritative parenting styles. Authoritarian level of mothers had positive weak level of significant correlation with emotional problems, conduct problems, hyperactivity, peer problems and negative weak level with prosocial scale. Authoritative level of mothers had negative weak level of significant correlation with conduct problems and hyperactivity scale. The permissive level of mothers had positive weak level of significant correlation with emotional problems, conduct problems, hyperactivity scale, peer problems and negative weak level with prosocial scale in children. Also, parent should be ready to change their style of parenting for the sake of mental health development of their children.

Conclusion: Same as in other parts of world, authoritative parenting styles were followed by most of the parent here. Our results strengthen the view that children's behavioural problems such as emotional problems, conduct problems, peer problems, hyperactivity scale and prosocial scale are influenced by all three parenting styles.

Keywords: Parenting style, behavior, adolescent, Jaffna