

Impact on Development of Children Due to Emerging Trends in Parenting

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ABSTRACT

Children are the future of any country. Early childhood development is a very important aspect in one's life. Development of a child includes person's physical, cognitive, linguistic and socioeconomical factors. This development happens in various settings such as home, schools, community-based centers etc. But the most prominent setting which affects the development of a child is at home specifically by parents. Different trends in parenting affects the growth of the child. Parenting trends change and evolve according to the time. In the current study the researcher has studied the impact on development of children due to emerging trends in parenting. The age group considered is from 2 to 14 years. In this study different emerging trends in parenting are taken and then it's effects on development of children is analyzed. This paper provides the evidence-based study of parenting and its influence on child development. To assess these aspects different data was collected from various researches, articles and websites. The conclusion shown from the first objective shows that the parenting style has shifted from authoritarian to permissive style after covid 19. The second objective concluded that there are both positive and negative impact of single parenthood on child development. The results shown from the third objective was that increased used of social media by both parents and children impacts the development of child negatively.

Keywords: *Development of Children, Emerging Trends and Parenting*

Childhood is defined as to be the period of innocence, vulnerability and development. As per the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 – a child is defined as a person who has not completed 14 years of age. During this time children are in need of adult protection and care due to their physical and emotional immaturity. Child development includes, physical growth, intellectual growth, language, emotional and social development. It is the period during which human beings develop their physical bodies and their mental abilities. According to Ross, Childhood (Later Childhood) is known as the "Pseudo Maturity" stage as the signs of puberty usually begin to appear in this stage. Pseudo maturity refers to a stage of maturity in which a child tries to act like people who are older than him/her. The present study has tried to investigate the changes in development of children due to new trends in parenting. There is always a new shift in trends of parenting

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after a certain time period. Parents are the first people with whom a child interacts, therefore the way of their parenting contributes a lot to the overall growth and development of the child. Early childhood is a stage where a person's mind is like a blank slate. We do not understand the much difference between positive and negative, whatever we see and experience we take it within ourselves. Therefore, it is very necessary to have a positive environment while the growing age of a child.

Development of children

Child development refers to the process through which human beings grow and mature. In overall development of a child, different aspects of growth and development are measured which includes physical growth, cognitive growth, social growth, emotional growth, and linguistic growth. Children are the future of any country. Therefore, it is very essential to look after the proper growth and development of the them. Parenting is the foremost thing which affects the development of the child. Other factors also shape the growth of a child such as family, surroundings, peers, etc. Many researchers have proposed different theories on child development. These theories had tried to explain how children change and grow over the course of childhood. Freud proposed one of the best-known grand theories of child development namely Psychoanalytic theory. According to him our behaviour is influenced by childhood experiences and unconscious desires. Piaget's Cognitive Developmental Theory is also well known for child development. He proposed a theory of cognitive development to understand the steps of children's intellectual development. He gave 4 stages namely sensorimotor stage, pre-operational stage, concrete operational stage and formal operational stage. There are many other researches done which explains the process of child development.

Emerging trends

Trend is the general direction in which the attitudes, interests, behaviors and actions of a large segment of a population change over time that influence large segments of a population, such as whole communities or regions. Any of the techniques designed to uncover systematic patterns (trends) in a set of variables, such as linear growth over time or quadratic increases in response to increases in the level of an independent variable (e.g., increased dosage levels) is termed as trend analysis. Such analysis is often used to predict future events.

Parenting

According to American Psychological Association (APA) parenting means all actions related to the raising of offspring. Researchers have described different human parenting styles. One of the most influential of these classifications is that of U.S. developmental psychologist Diana Baumrind, involving four types of styles:

1. Authoritarian parenting, in which the parent or caregiver stresses obedience, deemphasizes collaboration and dialogue, and employs strong forms of punishment.
2. Authoritative parenting, in which the parent or caregiver encourages a child's autonomy yet still places certain limitations on behaviour.
3. Permissive parenting, in which the parent or caregiver is accepting and affirmative, makes few demands, and avoids exercising control.
4. Neglecting parenting, in which the parent or caregiver is unsupportive, fails to monitor or limit behaviour, and is more attentive to his or her needs than those of the child.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Umemura et al. observed the interaction between parent and child in both laboratory setting and home setting. They tested Bowlby and Ainsworth's hypothesis. They studied the hierarchy of caregivers and whether infants prefer one caregiver or parent over the other when they are distressed. They examined that who is the primary care giver (mother or father)? It was found that a 2 year old distressed child prefers their mothers over their fathers. They also concluded that positive history of attachment and security predicts how quickly toddlers recover from distress after having an interaction from a parent.

Baumrind (1991) and Maccoby and Martin (1983) studied different combinations of parenting style of mother and father and its impact on the child development. It was concluded that if the mother and father have specific combination of parenting (similar) than the child development is better as compared to separate parenting practices or dimensions.

Galambos et al. conducted an experiment to understand how amount of behavioural control affects child development. It was observed that if the amount of behavioural control is appropriate than the child is considered to have a positive development, whereas if the control is insufficient (for example poor parental monitoring) or excessive control (for example parental physical punishment) than the developmental outcomes of a child are negative such as misconduct, depression and anxious affect.

The American psychologist Diana Baumrind gave some of the most well-known research on parenting styles. Baumrind and many subsequent researchers focused on two important parts of parenting: responsiveness and demandingness. According to their work, parents high in responsiveness are sensitive to their children's cues. Responsiveness also includes warmth, reciprocity, clear communication, and attachment. Parents high in demandingness let their children, set limits, enforce rules, use discipline, and make demands of maturity. By taking these two dimensions together four parenting styles are formed: authoritative (high demandingness, high responsiveness), authoritarian (high demandingness, low responsiveness), rejecting or neglecting (low demandingness, low responsiveness), and permissive or indulgent (low demandingness, high responsiveness).

According to Baumrind (1966), parenting is a mixed activity of many particular behaviours working individually or together that has an impact on the behaviour of children. Even juvenile delinquency is also concerned with parenting style. As the literature suggests, the term juvenile delinquency can be defined as a law-breaking act committed by a minor. This law-breaking act can be a result of any parenting style which is not suitable for a particular kid.

METHODOLOGY

This is a descriptive research paper, where secondary information by different researchers has been used. For obtaining necessary information, various articles, journals as well as websites have been explored by the researcher which has been mentioned in the reference section.

Sample

To data was collected from internet through various sites and different research papers. The age group considered was from 2 to 14.

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Objectives

1. To Analyse the shift in parenting style from authoritarian to permissive style after covid 19.
2. To examine the Impact of increasing Single Parenthood.
3. To study the impact of increased use of Social Media by Parents on their Children.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship between the new emerging trends in parenting and its effect on development of child growth. According to this the objectives were formed.

Objective 1:

Understanding today's nature of childhood requires an understanding of parenting. Parenting is divided into 4 kinds of parenting styles.

1. Authoritarian parenting - The parents in authoritarian style show demandingness and are less responsive to the child's needs. They like to impose their powers on their children and ask them to do whatever things that have been told without giving any proper reasons. This kind of parents might show some degree of warmth towards their children but demand respect from their children. The children who are raised under authoritarian parenting style may have higher level of antisocial behaviours. They tend to be more discontented and withdrawn due to the parental hostility and rejection.
2. Authoritative parenting - The authoritative parents always show responsiveness to their children's needs. They will keep an eye on their children's behaviours and provide reasoning for everything. The children who were raised within this style tend to show pro-social behaviours and are able to reason autonomously about moral problems. Besides that, they will respect the adults. In addition, they are more self-reliant, self-controlled and self-confident.
3. Permissive parenting - The permissive parents show high level of responsiveness but lack of demandingness towards their children. In this type of parenting, the parents will treat their children as friends and so, they are liked and accepted by their children. The children are also allowed to decide things on their own without any guidance provided by permissive parents. This type of parenting style sounds good but actually, the children's moral development is limited.
4. Neglectful parenting – The neglectful parents have minimal warmth and control over their children. These parents do not carry out their parenting responsibilities properly. They will just provide the children with physical necessities but not concerned about love and affection. Besides that, the children are being ignored or rejected most of the time. The children are seen but not heard about their ideas, problems or feelings. So, the children will experience depression and have antisocial personality.

According to the American Psychological Association, parenting practices around the world share three major goals: ensuring children's health and safety, preparing children for life as productive adults, and transmitting cultural values (APA, 2018).

A shift from a parenting style with high levels of demandingness (authoritative or authoritarian) to a parenting style with low levels of demandingness (permissive or uninvolved) may result in weakened social controls. Similarly, a shift from a parenting style which exhibits high levels of supportiveness (authoritative or permissive) to a parenting style with low levels of parental supportiveness (authoritarian or uninvolved) may also result in weakened social controls.

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This shows that shift in any sort of parenting style affects the child's behaviour and development. Covid-19 has affected each and every aspect of our lives. According to Albers, the pandemic also allowed parents to spend more time with their and better understand what type of parenting may work best for them. Before the pandemic, the parents may have been more authoritarian and during the pandemic moved into a more permissive style. Albers said, "Really successful parenting has been shown in research to be a combination of both a nurturing environment and providing structure boundaries and consequences." So we can say that here is a shift from authoritarian parenting style to permissive parenting style after covid-19. Due to this shift from the children have too much freedom and too little responsibilities. They have difficulty following rules. They tends to think that world revolves around them and suffers from self-control issues.

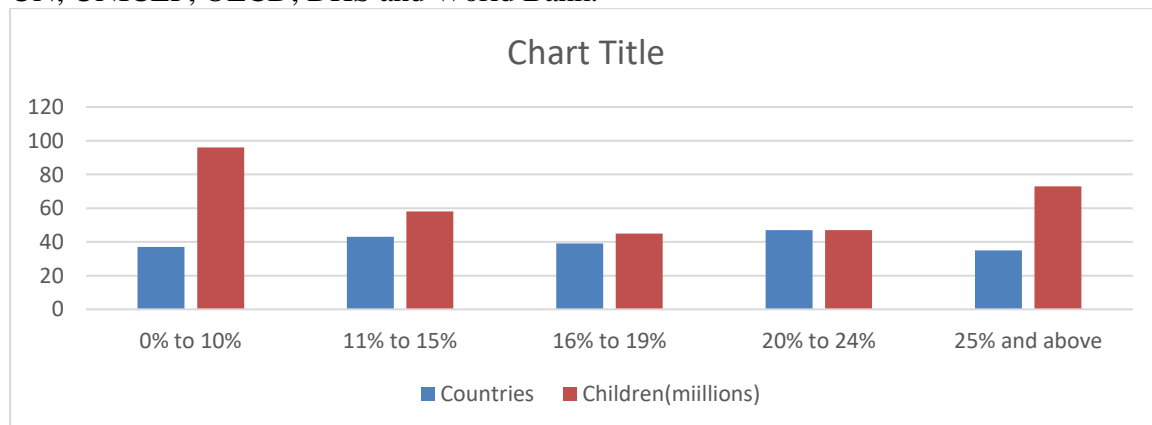
Objective 2:

Single parenting refers to a parent who brings up children without the assistance of a partner. There are many different reasons that why a single parent may bring up a child alone. It could be that they were in a relationship that ended. Other parents may choose to become single parents, and in some cases, a partner may have passed away. In addition, unplanned pregnancy, intended pregnancy and adoption by those who are unmarried and without partners are among the causes of single-parent households in many Western societies.

Of the world's 2.3 billion children 14 percent or 320 million - are living in single-parent households, most often headed by single mothers. The proportion of children living in single-parent households varies considerably across countries. At the lowest levels where 10 percent or less of the children live in single-parent families are mainly developing countries, including China, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan and Turkey. However, due to their large population size, those countries together account for close to one-third of all children living in single-parent households worldwide.

Number of countries and children by single parent household:

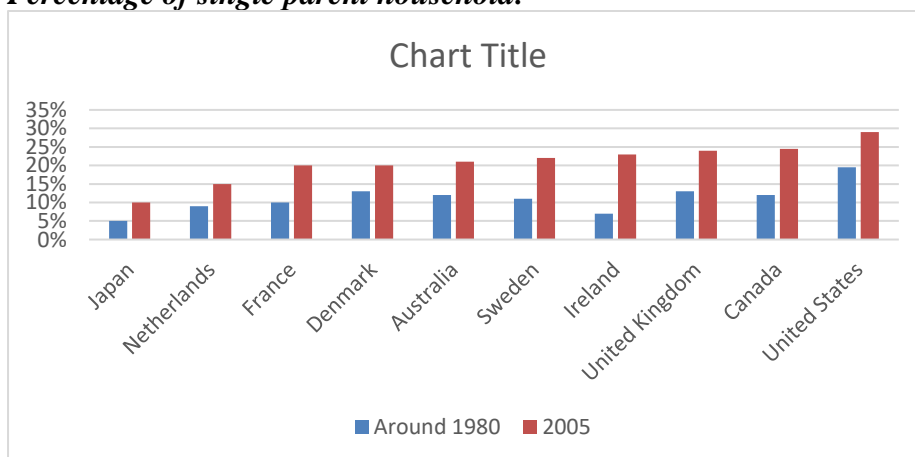
Source: Author's estimates based on national and international statistical sources, including UN, UNICEF, OECD, DHS and World Bank.



Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, New Zealand and the United Kingdom having no less than one-fifth of their children living with a single parent, again typically a lone mother. Over the recent past the incidence of single-parent families has been increased worldwide, with the largest increases occurring in industrialized countries. Between 1980 and 2005, for example, the proportion of single-parent households doubled for many developed countries, including France, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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Percentage of single parent household:



Source: National statistical offices.

The impact of single parenting can be both positive and negative on child development.

Some of the negative impacts are:

- Single parents are mostly working for more hours and due to this they often don't have enough time to assist their children.
- Single parents are more likely to suffer from financial issues as they are the only one to earn which may affect the economic needs of the children.
- One of the common reasons for single parenting is divorce. It then becomes very common for children to be exposed and even involved in the conflicts between the parents during and even after divorce, which may leave children lonely, abandoned, and even sometimes guilty, etc.

Some of the positive impacts are:

- Single parents may have a stronger bond with their children as they only have one parent setting.
- Children from a single parent are much more likely to be trained to handle responsibilities and contribute to family. These children understand the value of taking responsibility.
- Single parents have to work harder, and their children have to collaborate with them for the good of the family. These children also learn how to deal with disappointments and turbulent emotions at a early age. All this leads to attaining maturity at an early age.

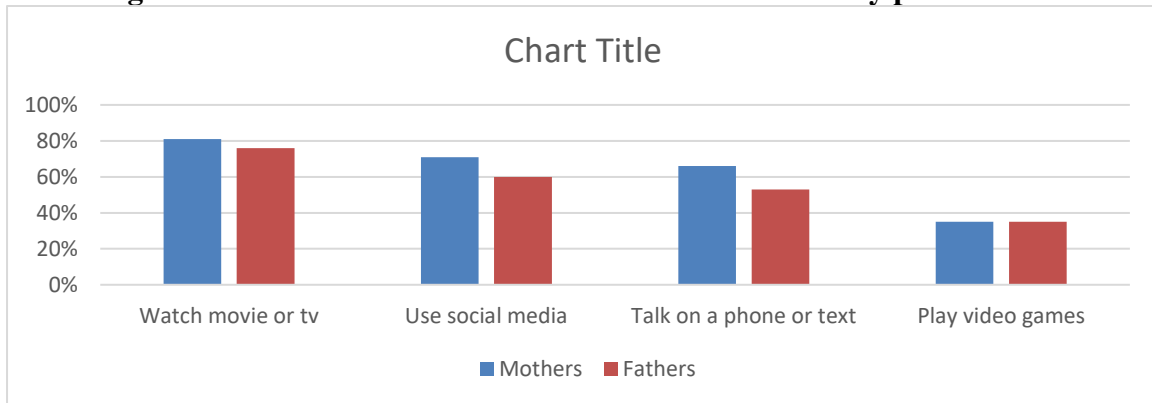
Objective 3:

Social media is a collective term for websites and applications that focus on communication, community-based input, interaction, content-sharing and collaboration.

The parent-child relationship consists of a combination of behaviour's, feelings, and expectations that are unique to a particular parent and a particular child. The relationship involves the full extent of a child's development. Social media usage for parents has become very common, as either a form of entertainment or communication with other individuals. However, excessive use of social media has also shown to have effects on parenting; causing parental distraction, decreasing the level of everyday parental engagement.

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Percentage of use of social media and other electronic devices by parents:



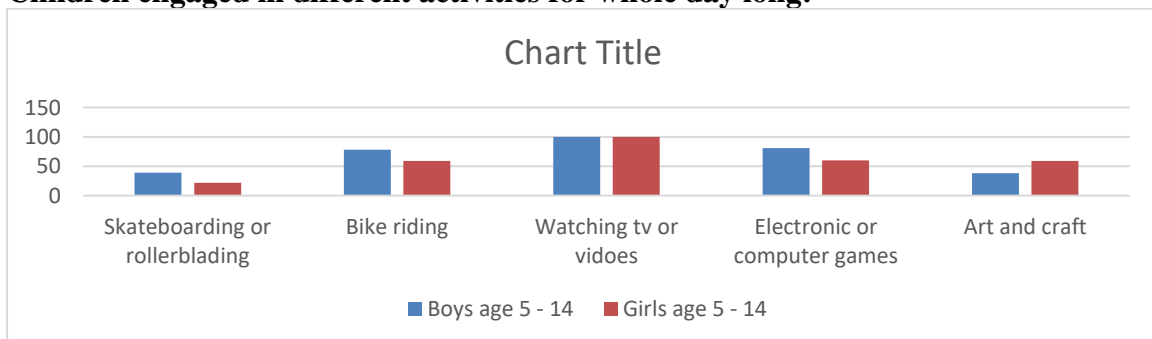
Parents who use excess social media are:

Physically present but emotionally distant - Parents who spend an excessive amount of time on sites such as Facebook, YouTube, and so on may be prone to neglecting their children or leaving them unsupervised for short period of time while they are completely engrossed in the information shared through social media.

Psychological wellbeing of the child - Parents hold more responsibility for the psychological well-being of their child. They are disconnected from the real world to connect on the virtual world. This disconnect creates gaps in parent-child relationships as children don't bother to address their problems and parents are slowly losing touch with what is happening in their child's life.

Childs need attention - The central issue with parents of younger children is the time social media steals away from their children. Children find more games to play and videos to watch, which leads them to disconnect from their parents and grow away from them while finding comfort in something else. This occurs mostly because children need attention and more often than not, parents don't give them enough attention due to work and several other factors.

Children engaged in different activities for whole day long:



Limitations of the study

- Sample was limited to age range between 2 to 14 years only.
- Study was done only on children.
- The study was done on the basis of secondary data.

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Suggestions for the future study

- The present study was done on a limited sample. A similar study can be conducted on a larger number of sample.
- Similar study can be done particularly on a specific country.

Implications of the study

- Best parenting style for a particular child can be understood and performed.
- Parents can change their child's behaviour by changing their parenting style.
- Social media usage can be analyzed and then can be improved according to their necessity.

CONCLUSIONS

After studying the following objectives, the following conclusions were drawn; Parenting style has shifted from authoritarian to permissive after covid 19. Single parenthood has both positive and negative impacts on the development of the child. Increased use of social media of both parents and children affects child development negatively.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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