

## Gender Differences in Parenting Styles During Adolescence

Sonal Shah<sup>1\*</sup>, Dr. Prachi S. Shah<sup>2</sup>

### ABSTRACT

This research investigates and compares various parenting styles—democratic, autocratic, permissive, and uninvolved—in relation to the gender of adolescents. The study aimed to explore how these parenting styles differ based on the gender of adolescents. A sample of 200 adolescents (100 males and 100 females) from high schools in Ahmedabad city was selected using random sampling. The Parenting Style Scale by Madhu Gupta and Dimple Methani was employed to assess parenting styles. The study hypothesized that there would be no significant differences in parenting styles between male and female adolescents. Results indicated significant differences in all parenting styles: democratic parenting style was more prevalent among parents of female adolescents, while autocratic, permissive, and uninvolved parenting styles were more common among parents of male adolescents. These findings highlight gender-specific variations in parenting practices and underscore their implications for adolescent development.

**Keywords:** Parenting Styles, Adolescent Gender, Democratic Parenting, Autocratic Parenting, Permissive Parenting, Uninvolved Parenting

Parenting has garnered significant attention from various scientific disciplines, with numerous theories underscoring its critical role in child development. Researchers employ diverse approaches that encompass parenting practices, dimensions, and styles. Parenting practices involve observable social interactions between parents and children (Darling and Steinberg, 1993). The decision-making process in nurturing children poses a challenge for all parents, whether raising them independently or with a partner, as everyone seeks the best outcomes for their children, leading to considerable stress when choosing a parenting style.

Understanding the impact of parenting styles on children is crucial. Research indicates that identical parenting styles can yield different outcomes for different children. For instance, Baumrind's initial study, which included a sample of 100 preschool children, laid the foundation for subsequent research that has yielded varying conclusions about the influence of parenting styles.

Authoritarian parenting styles typically result in children who are obedient and competent but often score lower on measures of happiness, social competence, and self-esteem.

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Sabarmati University, Ahmedabad, India

<sup>2</sup>Head, Department of Psychology, Sabarmati University, Ahmedabad, India

\*Corresponding Author

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Authoritative parenting styles, in contrast, tend to produce children who are joyful, well-adjusted, and successful.

Permissive parenting often leads to children with lower levels of contentment and self-control, who may experience issues with authority and perform poorly in school.

Uninvolved parenting styles typically result in children who struggle across various domains of life, showing lower self-control, self-confidence, and overall competence compared to their peers.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

**Rashmi (2021)** emphasizes the pivotal role of the parent-child relationship in effective parenting, highlighting it as an ongoing process that spans a lifetime. The choice of parenting style is crucial in contemporary times, with extensive research dedicated to identifying the most beneficial approach for child development, particularly during adolescence—a phase marked by physical, emotional changes, and health-related issues. The study aims to explore how parenting styles influence adolescent health, adjustment, and happiness. It reveals that an accepting parenting style correlates negatively with health and adjustment, yet positively with happiness, suggesting its effectiveness in fostering adolescent well-being and overall child upbringing.

**Imam and Singh (2019)** explore the complexities of parental styles, noting that selecting the most suitable style is akin to an art form. They observe variations in parenting styles based on gender and socioeconomic status, supported by Trivedi's (1987) findings linking parental attitudes with socioeconomic factors. Their study at Ranchi University aimed to investigate gender and socioeconomic disparities in perceived parental acceptance-rejection among undergraduate students. They hypothesized significant differences between boys and girls, as well as between students from high and low socioeconomic backgrounds, regarding parental acceptance-rejection styles. With a sample size of 171 (87 boys and 84 girls), the results indicated higher levels of parental rejection among boys compared to girls, and greater parental acceptance among students from higher socioeconomic backgrounds compared to those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

**Ambhore and Puri (2019)** discuss the evolving nature of parenting in response to the changing demands of life. They emphasize parents' willingness to adapt their parenting styles to foster their children's growth, particularly in understanding the importance of emotional intelligence (EI). Emotional intelligence is crucial for regulating emotions, which directly impacts adolescents' psychological well-being. The authors assert that children learn these skills primarily from their families, particularly their parents, highlighting parenting as a blend of emotional intelligence, empathy, wisdom, consciousness, and self-governance. This combination equips adolescents to navigate life's challenges and promotes positive well-being. Their study aimed to explore how parenting styles influence the development of emotional intelligence and psychological well-being among adolescents, as well as gender differences in these outcomes. With a sample size of 80 adolescents, the results indicated significant differences in the impact of parenting styles on emotional intelligence and psychological well-being. Authoritative parenting was found to be more effective than authoritarian parenting in fostering emotional intelligence and psychological well-being among adolescents, regardless of gender.

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**Lata and Tripathi (2017)** explore the impact of parenting styles, involving both mothers and fathers, on child development. They highlight a prevalent societal issue where parents often influence their children's academic choices rather than considering the child's preferences. Their study focuses on adolescents from diverse residential backgrounds, genders, and academic grades to examine the link between parenting styles and academic performance. The research involved 280 students from rural and urban areas in grades 9 and 11. Using Bharadwaj et al.'s (1998) Parenting Scale and students' academic reports, they found that parenting styles varied between rural and urban areas and significantly influenced academic achievement among adolescents.

**Shabbir and Ishaq (2019)** explore the relationship between parenting styles, emotional intelligence, and communication competence among adolescents. They address the ongoing question of how parenting styles influence these aspects. The study, conducted at Fazaia Intercollege E/9 Islamabad, utilized a convenient sampling technique with 200 students (100 males and 100 females). Three scales were employed: the Buri Parenting Style Questionnaire (PSQ), Wong & Low Emotional Intelligence Scale, and Lewiki Communication Scale (CCS). Their findings indicate that permissive and authoritarian parenting styles show significant negative correlations with both communication competence and emotional intelligence. In contrast, flexible and authoritative parenting styles exhibit positive correlations with these attributes. The results underscore the importance of positive parenting approaches in fostering better communication and emotional skills among adolescents, regardless of gender.

### *Statement of Problem*

The primary objective of this study is to examine and compare different parenting styles—democratic, autocratic, permissive, and uninvolved—specifically in how they relate to the gender of adolescents. The central research issue focuses on understanding how parenting styles vary based on the gender of adolescents.

### *Objectives*

- To study and compare democratic parenting style of parents of male and female adolescence.
- To study and compare Autocratic parenting style of parents of male and female adolescence.
- To study and compare Permissive parenting style of parents of male and female adolescence.
- To study and compare Uninvolved parenting style of parents of male and female adolescence.

### *Hypothesis*

- There is no significant difference between Democratic parenting style of parents of male and female adolescence.
- There is no significant difference between Autocratic parenting style of parents of male and female adolescence.
- There is no significant difference between Permissive parenting style of parents of male and female adolescence.
- There is no significant difference between Uninvolved parenting style of parents of male and female adolescence.

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### Sample

For the present research 100 male and 100 female adolescences were randomly selected from the difference high school of Ahmedabad city.

### Variables

In present research gender of the adolescence was taken as independent variable and scores of the different parenting style such as democratic parenting style, autocratic parenting style, permissive parenting style and uninvolved parenting style were taken as dependent variables.

### Tools

#### 1. Parenting Style Scale by Madhu Gupta and Dimple Methani

##### Reliability

The reliability of the scale was established with the help of Test-Retest method and Split-Half method by administering the Parenting Style Scale on a representative sample of 525 students selected from Rohtak & Bhiwani (Haryana State). The test-retest reliability was calculated by correlating 1<sup>st</sup> test scores and retest scores (test given after a gap of 30 days) of the sample. The obtained value was 0.911, which is significant at .01 level of significance. Split-Half Reliability was measured by Spearman-Brown Prophecy Formulae. It was found to be 0.795, which is significant at .01 level of significance. Reliability of each type of parenting style was also found out through test-Retest method. the reliability coefficient thus obtained are given in Table.

**Table : Reliability for each Type of Parenting Style**

Sr. No.	Type of Parenting Style	Reliability coefficients
I.	Democratic Parenting Style	0.712**
II.	Autocratic Parenting Style	0.743**
III.	Permissive Parenting Style	0.794**
IV.	Uninvolved Parenting Style	0.786**

**Validity:** The validity of the Parenting Style Scale (PSS) was calculated on the basis of face validity and content validity. The unanimity of 20 experts about the items was taken as an indicator of face validity of the scale. Content validity was of primary importance for this scale where issues of the overlap between items and the relevancy of the items to the category to which they belong were addressed by the experts. Inter-correlations among different types of the parenting style were measured to calculate the construct validity. The coefficient of correlation for different types of parenting style ranges from 0.508 to 0.819 and indicate high construct validity of the scale.

**Scoring:** The responses are to be given on the test booklet itself. There are five cells against every item of the scale. The five cells belong to five responses namely, 'always', 'often', 'sometimes', 'rarely', and 'never'. To score the scale assign 4 marks to 'always', 3 marks to 'often', 2 marks to 'sometimes', 1 mark to 'rarely' and 0 mark to 'never' responses. The scoring procedure of the scale is given in Table. (Total score for each parenting style is calculated by adding the score of respective items related to the style).

**Table : Scoring of Perceived Parenting Style Scale**

Response	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Scores	4	3	2	1	0

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### *Procedure*

After establishing the rapport with the selected adolescence from the different high schools of Ahmedabad city. Instructions regarding parenting scale was given to the participants. Parenting style scale was administered in small manageable groups. After completion of data collection scoring was done with the help of scoring key of parenting style scale. The data was arranged in appropriate tabulated form for the data analysis.

### *Statistical Analysis*

To analyse the data MEAN, SD and “t” test was used.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

*Table No 1. Mean SD and t Value of Democratic Parenting Style of parents of male and Female adolescents.*

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>MEAN</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>
Male	100	28.92	8.27	3.83	0.01
Female	100	32.87	7.98		

The results of table no 1 shows the t value of Democratic parenting style of Parents of male and female adolescence is 3.83 which is significant at 0.01 level. So, the null hypothesis, reflects that “There is no significant difference between Democratic parenting style of parents of male and female adolescence” is rejected. Mean scores of male adolescences on Democratic parenting style is 28.92 and mean scores of female adolescences on Democratic parenting style is 32.87 with SD 8.27 and 7.98 respectively. It means significant difference was found between male and female adolescence with regards to Democratic parenting style. The results indicate that parents of female adolescence are more Democratic as compared to male adolescences.

*Table No 2. Mean SD and t Value of Autocratic Parenting Style of parents of male and Female adolescents.*

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>MEAN</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>
Male	100	27.62	9.25	2.48	0.05
Female	100	24.69	7.28		

The results of table no 2 shows the t value of autocratic parenting style of Parents of male and female adolescence is 2.48 which is significant at 0.05 level. So, the null hypothesis, reflects that “There is no significant difference between autocratic parenting style of parents of male and female adolescence” is rejected. Mean scores of male adolescences on autocratic parenting style is 27.62 and mean scores of female adolescences on autocratic parenting style is 24.69 with SD 9.25 and 7.28 respectively. It means significant difference was found between male and female adolescence with regards to autocratic parenting style. The results indicate that parents of male adolescence are more autocratic as compared to female adolescences.

*Table No 3. Mean SD and t Value of permissive Parenting Style of parents of male and Female adolescents.*

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>MEAN</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>
Male	100	22.63	7.10	3.85	0.01
Female	100	19.09	5.90		

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The results of table no 3 shows the t value of permissive parenting style of Parents of male and female adolescence is 3.85 which is significant at 0.01 level. So, the null hypothesis, reflects that “There is no significant difference between permissive parenting style of parents of male and female adolescence” is rejected. Mean scores of male adolescences on permissive parenting style is 22.63 and mean scores of female adolescences on Permissive parenting style is 19.09 with SD 7.10 and 5.90 respectively. It means significant difference was found between male and female adolescence with regards to permissive parenting style. The results indicate that parents of male adolescence are more permissive as compared to female adolescences.

**Table No 4. Mean SD and t Value of Uninvolved Parenting Style of parents of male and Female adolescents.**

GROUP	N	MEAN	SD	t	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
Male	100	15.66	8.09	4.94	0.01
Female	100	10.72	5.29		

The results of table no 3 shows the t value of uninvolved parenting style of Parents of male and female adolescence is 4.94 which is significant at 0.01 level. So, the null hypothesis, reflects that “There is no significant difference between uninvolved parenting style of parents of male and female adolescence” is rejected. Mean scores of male adolescences on uninvolved parenting style is 15.66 and mean scores of female adolescences on Uninvolved parenting style is 10.72 with SD 8.09 and 5.29 respectively. It means significant difference was found between male and female adolescence with regards to uninvolved parenting style. The results indicate that parents of male adolescence are more uninvolved as compared to female adolescences.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study has highlighted significant differences in parenting styles between male and female adolescents across democratic, autocratic, permissive, and uninvolved dimensions. It was observed that parents of female adolescents tend to adopt more democratic parenting styles compared to parents of male adolescents. Conversely, parents of male adolescents exhibit higher tendencies towards autocratic, permissive, and uninvolved parenting styles compared to parents of female adolescents. These findings underscore the gender-specific variations in parenting approaches, emphasizing the need for further exploration and understanding of how these differences impact adolescent development and family dynamics.

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### ***Conflict of Interest***

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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