

# Parenting Styles and Conduct Problems among Children in Qatar

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- The most well established risk factor of children's behavioral problems is exposure to problematic parenting (Scott, Briskman, and Dadds, 2011).
- Parenting styles (e.g., involvement, warmth, and low monitoring and supervision) have been linked various behavioral issues among children (e.g., aggression, non-compliance, and delinquency).
- Understanding parenting practices is very important for identifying factors that help protect children from developing behavioral issues and/or aggravating already existing problematic behaviors.

## Sample

- A stratified systematic sample was constructed for both Qatari and expatriate households. Each municipality was considered an independent administrative stratum. After ordering the residences by location, a probability-based sample was drawn from each stratum. Interviews were conducted using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technology.
- The data for this paper were collected from 316 Qataris with children ages 4-12 years old.

## Instruments

- *Alabama Parenting Questionnaire (APQ)* consisted of 42 items related to positive and negative (Holden & Edwards, 1989) parenting practices
  - Positive Parenting
  - Poor Monitoring/supervision
  - Inconsistency
  - Involvement
  - Corporal Punishment.
- In this study, we used a 15-item short version of APQ. Participants were presented with a 5-point scale: Never, Almost Never, Sometimes, Often, and Always.

You play games or do other fun things with your child.	Involvement
You ask your child about his/her day in school.	
You help your child with his/her homework.	
You let your child know when he/she doing a good job with something.	Positive
You praise your child if he/she behaves well	
You compliment your child when he/she does something well.	Punishment
You spank your child with your hand when he/she has done something wrong.	
You slap your child when he/she has done something wrong.	
You hit your child with an object when he/she has done something wrong.	Inconsistency
You let your child out of a punishment early	
You threaten to punish your child and then do not actually punish him/her.	
Your child talks you out of being punished after he/she has done something wrong.	Poor Monitoring
Your child fails to leave a note or to let you know where he/she is going.	
Your child stays out in the evening past the time he/she is supposed to be home.	
Your child is out with friend you don't know.	

- Conduct Problem subscale (five items) from the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). This questionnaire is a brief 25-item behavioral screening questionnaire (Goodman, 1997).
- Participants scored their children's behavior on a 3-point scale: not true, sometimes true, certainly true.

Your child often has temper tantrum or hot tempers.

Your child is generally obedient, usually does what adults request.

Your child fights with other children or bullies them.

Your child lies or cheats.

Your child steals from home, school or elsewhere.

## Results

- 168 fathers and 148 mothers.
- The mothers age  $M= 39.72$  ( $SD = 7.18$ )
- The fathers age  $M=42.97$  ( $SD = 8.19$ ).
- 58% of the fathers less than a bachelor's degree
- 42% had a bachelor's degree higher
- 52% of mothers had less than a bachelor's degree
- 48% had a bachelor's degree or higher.
- 82% had three or fewer children
- 29% made 30,000 Qatari Riyals or less per month
- 62% made more than 30,000 Riyals per month

You play games or do other fun things with your child.	Involvement
You ask your child about his/her day in school.	
You help your child with his/her homework.	Cronbach's alpha .64
You let your child know when he/she doing a good job with something.	Positive
You praise your child if he/she behaves well	
You compliment your child when he/she does something well.	Cronbach's alpha .54
You spank your child with your hand when he/she has done something wrong.	Punishment
You slap your child when he/she has done something wrong.	
You hit your child with an object when he/she has done something wrong.	Cronbach's alpha .67
You let your child out of a punishment early	Inconsistency
You threaten to punish your child and then do not actually punish him/her.	
Your child talks you out of being punished after he/she has done something wrong.	Cronbach's alpha .62
<del>Your child fails to leave a note or to let you know where he/she is going.</del>	Poor Monitoring
Your child stays out in the evening past the time he/she is supposed to be home.	
Your child is out with friend you don't know.	Cronbach's alpha .52



Cronbach's alpha .57

Your child often has temper tantrum or hot tempers.

~~Your child is generally obedient, usually does what adults request.~~

Your child fights with other children or bullies them.

Your child lies or cheats.

Your child steals from home, school or elsewhere.

- Positive and Involvement ( $r = .28, p = .001$ ).
- Corporal Punishment and Poor Supervision ( $r = .49, p = .001$ ).
- Punishment and Inconsistency ( $r = .19, p = .001$ ).
- **Conduct Problem** and Punishment ( $r = .30, p = .001$ ).
- **Conduct Problem** and Inconsistency ( $r = .26, p = .001$ ).

- Parents with income 30,000 Riyals or less per month were more likely to employ Punishment ( $M = 1.82$ ) in dealing with their children than participants who reported making more than 30,000 Riyals ( $M = 1.53$ ) per month ( $t(286) = 2.99$ ,  $p = .003$ ).
- Mothers reported being more involved in their children's lives ( $M = 4.55$ ) than fathers ( $M = 4.24$ ) ( $t(314) = 3.74$ ,  $p = .001$ ).

- More mothers ( $M = 4.84$ ) than fathers ( $M = 4.70$ ) reported practicing positive parenting ( $t(314) = 3.03, p = .003$ ).
- Mothers reported punishing their children more ( $M = 1.76$ ) than fathers ( $M = 1.57$ ) ( $t(314) = 2.03, p = .04$ ).
- Mothers were more involved ( $M = 4.58$ ) than fathers ( $M = 4.24$ ) in boys' lives ( $t(119) = 2.62, p = .01$ ).
- As for the girls, mothers were more likely ( $M = 4.50$ ) to provide positive parenting than fathers ( $M = 4.24$ ) ( $t(92) = 2.50, p = .01$ ).

- Regression analysis showed that Punishment ( $\beta$ . 30) and Inconsistent ( $\beta$  .21) were the only significant predictors of child conduct problems.

- Harsh parenting and inconsistency in parenting explained various forms of antisocial behavior (Capaldi & Patterson, 1994; Patterson et al., 1992).
- This is a cross-sectional study hence we need to acknowledge that correlations between parenting behaviors and conduct problems could reflect causal processes in opposite direction (difficult kids elicit more punishment from parents).

- While children with Conduct Problems might elicit more harsh and frequent punishment, it is less likely to specifically elicit inconsistent parenting.
- The relationship between Punishment and Poor Supervision suggests a constellation of Poor parenting practices among some parents; parents who are harsh are also not good at monitoring their children's activities.
- Mothers engaged in positive and negative parenting behaviors likely reflect their greater involvement in all parenting tasks.

- Future studies need to examine the link between parenting styles and various behavioral and psychological outcomes (e.g., smoking, drinking, self-esteem).
- Longitudinal studies are needed to examine the long-term impacts of parenting styles on children



# Thank you



**DIFI**

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