



## Influence of Parenting Styles on Social Reticence among Higher secondary school students

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### Abstract

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This study focused on the influence of parenting styles on social reticence of higher secondary school students. The sample consist of 600 higher secondary school students in Kannur, Kozhikode and Malappuram districts. Social Reticence Scale and Scale of Parenting Style were used. The results showed that students with neglectful parenting style are more socially reticent than the students with other parenting styles. The study also found that male students with authoritative, permissive and neglectful parenting styles are more socially reticent than authoritarian Parenting Style. Female students with authoritative parenting styles are less reticent than the other categories.

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The ultimate goal of education is socialization, diffusion of knowledge, values, attitudes and norms of relationships, required for playing adult roles in society. Human beings want to mingle and co-operate with others for their healthy social life and satisfaction of needs. Adolescence is one of the crucial periods in the life of an individual. A big question arising in the adolescent mind is 'What am I supposed to do' and 'In which style am I to perform?' Most of the adolescents do have intrapersonal and interpersonal problems concerning education, health, family, vocation, society and personal matters. Many of them have a tendency to withdraw from their concerned fields. Reticent individuals tend to avoid communication in social and public contexts. The problem of reticence reflected in the educational field of the individual. The socially reticent individual is not like to mingle with teacher as well as to another child. He will not be an active performer in resourceful activities in the society. He may be misled to the corrupted world of drug abuse, alcoholism, juvenile crimes and hostility. He will be marginalized as antisocial being and future of the society will be in dark.

Some of the features of reticent behavior is lack of communication skill, concern with failure, excessive shyness, cultural barriers, lack of motivation, lack of responsibility, lack of metacognition, behavioral inhibition, isolation and rejection, social withdrawal, passivity, and peer neglect (Phillips, 1991). These features makes the children harder to pay attention in the class and hence affects the overall development of the child. Socially withdrawn children are concurrently and productively at risk for a wide range of negative adjustment outcomes including socio-emotional difficulties like anxiety, low self-esteem, depressive symptoms, internalizing problems, peer difficulties like rejection, victimization, poor friendship quality and school difficulties like poor quality teacher-child relationships, academic difficulties and school avoidance.

Parents are primary educators and play a critical role in shaping the individuality of the child. The behavior of the parents is a powerful influence on adolescents who learn more from what their parents do than when they are told by them. The basic art of relationship is learnt at home; parents being the first teachers. Researchers (Baumrind, 1971; Carson & Parke, 1996; Putallaz, 1987) reported that the type of parenting a child receives plays an important role in their social development. Parental over protection is indeed a significant predictor of



children's shyness, inhibition and reticent behavior (Coplan, Arbeau, & Armer, 2008). Socially withdrawn adolescents, especially those who are socially reticent, usually appear anxious and wary in social situations (Coplan, Rubin, Fox, Calkins & Stewart, 1994). Understanding the mechanism underlying development of reticence in social situations could help vulnerable children from such negative consequences.

Parenting Style is a psychological construct representing standard strategies that parents use in their child rearing. Based on differing levels of parental responsiveness and parental demandingness, Maccoby and Martin (1983) suggested four types of Parenting styles viz., Authoritarian, Authoritative, Permissive and Neglectful. Parents must analyze their Parenting Styles, its effects on their children and what works best for them and their child. The authoritative parenting style is one that communicates in a warm, accepting, nurturing manner. Parents maintain firm expectations and restrictions on their children's behavior while holding them accountable for their own actions. The authoritarian parenting style is an extremely strict form of parenting that expects a child to adhere to rules and regulations set out by the parents with little or no input or communication from the child. Authoritarian parents feel they are the boss and their children should conform to their demands without question. Permissive parents feel their children are capable of making their own decisions with little parental guidance. The parent is overly responsive to the child's demands, seldom enforcing consistent rules and often leads to rearing a spoiled child. The neglectful parent is totally disengaged and emotionally uninvolved in their child's life. Parents who are overly protective and directive tend to over-manage situations for their children, restrict their children's behaviors, discourage independence, and control their children's activities. Simultaneous and predictive links between parental over protectiveness, over control, intrusion and children's socially wary withdrawn behavior have been reported in many studies (Rubin, Cheah, & Fox, 2001; Coplan, Prakash, O'Neil, & Armer, 2004).

By considering the above concerns, the investigators made an attempt to know whether the parenting styles of higher secondary school students influence their rate of social reticence.

### **Objectives**

1. To find out the percentage of higher secondary school students who perceive their Parenting style as: a) Authoritarian b) Authoritative c) Permissive d) Neglectful
2. To find out the influence of Parenting styles on Social reticence of higher secondary school students in the total group and subgroups based on gender.

### **Participants**

The study is conducted on a sample of 600 higher secondary school students from different higher secondary schools located in various districts of Kerala using survey method with stratified sampling technique by giving due representation to gender, locale of institutions and type of management of institutions.

### **Instrument**

Social Reticence Scale (Mumthas & Shyni, 2014) and Scale of Parenting Style (Gafoor & Abidha, 2012) were used. Social reticence scale was developed giving due representation to items concerning with anxiety, knowledge of communication topics, organization of thoughts, memory skills, delivery skills, and timing skills. The scale consists of 50 items and possesses face validity. The value of Cronbach Alpha Coefficient of 0.87 reveals that the scale is consistent for measuring social reticence among the participants. Scale of Parenting Style with 38 items, categorizes parents according to whether they are high or low on parental demandingness and parental responsiveness. The test re-test coefficient of reliability of responsiveness variable in the scale is 0.81 and for control it is 0.83. The scale has construct validity with a coefficient 0.83.

## Results and Discussion

Analysis were done as per the following sections.

### 1. Percent of higher secondary school students with different Parenting styles.

Table 1

*Percent of students with different Parenting Styles in the total sample*

Parenting Styles	Percent (%)
Authoritative	37.50(N=225)
Authoritarian	14.00(N= 84)
Permissive	13.50(N=81)
Neglectful	35.00(N=210)

Table 1 shows that nearly one-third of the parents are categorized by their children as authoritative, who rated as high in both responsiveness and control. A similar trend can also be found in neglectful parent, who rated as low in both responsiveness and control.

### 2. Influence of Parenting styles on Social reticence in the total group and subgroups based on gender

To find out the influence of Parenting styles on Social reticence, the technique one-way ANOVA was employed. The data and results showing the influence of Parenting styles on Social reticence are given in Table 2.

Table 2

*Summary of Analysis of Variance of Parenting Style on Social Reticence*

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F-value
Between Groups	4841.90	3	1613.97	11.87**
Within Groups	81048.87	596	135.99	
Total	85890.77	599		

\*\*p < .01

The result implies that the influence of the variable Parenting styles on Social reticence in the total sample is significant. As significant mean difference in Social reticence was observed among total sample, t- test was used as follow up to locate the groups that differ significantly. The details of t-test are given as Table 3.

Table 3

*Result of Test of significance of difference between means of different Parenting Styles on Social Reticence of higher secondary school students*

Parenting Styles	N	Mean	S.D	t-value
Authoritative	225	84.68	11.52	1.36
Authoritarian	84	86.83	12.62	
Authoritative	225	84.68	11.52	0.88
Permissive	81	85.88	10.16	
Authoritative	225	84.68	11.52	5.74**
Neglectful	210	91.15	11.95	
Authoritarian	84	86.83	12.62	0.53
Permissive	81	85.88	10.16	
Authoritarian	84	86.83	12.62	2.69**
Neglectful	210	91.15	11.95	
Permissive	81	85.88	10.16	3.76**
Neglectful	210	91.15	11.95	

\*\*p< .01

The analysis of the results reveals that students with neglectful Parenting style are more socially reticent than any other group. Neglectful Parenting style is rated low in both responsiveness and control. When the parents show low responsiveness and control towards their children, they are tend to be more socially reticent. The result also shows that significant difference exists only when the comparison is made between the students with Neglectful Parenting style and the other three styles of parenting viz.,authoritative, authoritarian and permissive.

#### **Influence of Parenting style on Social reticence in the Subgroup based on Gender**

The data and result needed for finding the influence of Parenting style on Social reticence based on their gender are given in Table 4.

Table 4

*Details of Test of Significance of difference between Means of different Parenting Styles on Social Reticence of higher secondary school students based on Gender*

Parenting Style	Gender	N	Mean	S.D	t-value
Authoritative	Male	75	86.28	11.17	2.76**
	Female	150	83.87	11.65	
Authoritarian	Male	34	85.47	10.96	0.85
	Female	50	87.76	13.67	
Permissive	Male	30	88.90	10.15	2.09*
	Female	51	84.09	9.83	
Neglectful	Male	104	91.30	10.42	0.18
	Female	106	91.00	13.33	

\*\* p< .01, \*p< .05



Table 4 indicates that male and female students with Authoritative Parenting style differ significantly in their extent of Social reticence. An estimation of mean scores revealed that male students with authoritative Parenting style are more socially reticent than their counterparts. It is also clear that male and female students with Permissive Parenting style differ significantly in their extent of Social reticence. An estimation of mean scores revealed that male students with permissive Parenting style are more socially reticent than female students. Authoritative parents are high in both responsiveness and control whereas Permissive parents are having high responsiveness but low control. That is, when we are considering authoritative and permissive Parenting Styles, gender has significant difference on Social reticence of higher secondary school students. But gender has no significant difference on Social reticence of higher secondary school students with authoritarian and neglectful Parenting styles.

### Conclusion

The study attempts to find out the influence of parenting styles on social reticence of higher secondary school students. The results revealed that students with neglectful parenting style are more socially reticent than the students with other parenting style. Neglectful parents are low in both responsiveness and control. The parents must give care to their child to diminish their social reticence and hence improve their social relationship. Sensing the child's difficulties and perceived helplessness, the parents might attempt to direct their child's social behaviors in a power-assertive fashion by telling the child how to act or what to do, or by actually solving the child's interpersonal dilemmas for him/her.

The study also found that male students with authoritative, permissive and neglectful parenting styles are more socially reticent than authoritarian parenting style. The proper socialization of the young is an important aspect in the present era. Parents, teachers and peers are the different sources through which socialization of the children takes place. The following measures are to be taken for dropping the extent of social reticence among higher secondary school students. Parents should be made aware about the influence of their parenting styles on the withdrawing tendency of their wards. Parents should try to maintain a cordially relationship with their children. Organize counselling classes for the students to make them understand the disadvantages of social reticence and the advantages of social competence and good relationship with others. Teachers should handle the students carefully especially those who are coming from poor background. Parents should be more democratic and consider their children accordingly.

Peer interaction, opportunity for facing audience, participation in extracurricular activities etc can eliminate the withdrawing tendency of students. Provision for practical experience to enhance personality and good relationship with others through various programmes to be ensured. Parents should give adequate freedom to their children in order to foster the adaptability and flexibility. They should give proper attention in providing supports in all walks of the life of their children and act accordingly.

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