Parenting Styles and College Students' Success

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Introduction

- Studies on parenting styles constitute the effect of family socialization on children's wellbeing (Maccoby, 1992)
- Not much attention is paid to emerging adulthood and its effects on developmental processes.
- Authoritative parenting styles have been connected with positive developmental outcomes in comparison to authoritarian and permissive that have been associated with poor developmental outcomes (Power, 2013)
- The purpose of this study is to determine whether or not the methods used to look at the relationship between parenting style and childhood outcome could be used to determine correlation between parenting styles and success in college-aged emerging adults.

Hypothesis

1. Are authoritarian and permissive parenting styles correlated with a lower level of self-control in comparison to authoritative style which is correlated with a higher level of self-control?

2. Are authoritarian and permissive parenting styles correlated with less positive interpersonal connections in comparison to authoritative style which is correlated with positive interpersonal connections?

3. Are authoritarian and permissive parenting styles associated with poor social and emotional response in comparison to authoritative styles that are correlated with a high social and emotional response?

Materials

- Parental Authority Questionnaire (Buri, 1991)
- The Self Control Scale (Tangney et al, 2004)
- The Bell and Object Relations and Reality Testing Inventory (Bell et al, 1986)
- Emotional Maturity Scale (Bhargava et al, 1991)

Methods

- Recruited UMW students 17 and over from the general psychology course
- Recruited college aged students 18 and over from various social media platforms
- Each participant completed nine questions from each of the surveys
- A total of 56 participants data was analyzed.
  - Gender: 37 female and 19 male
  - Class: 27 freshman, 13 Sophomore, 8 Juniors, 6 Seniors, 2 Other
  - Race: 2 African American, 11 Asian, 31 Caucasion, 4 Hispanic, 4 Indian, and 4 Multiracial
  - Age: 41% of participants were 18, 16% were 19, 18 % were 20, 4% were 21 , 5% were 22, and 13% were 23 to 38

Procedure

1. We recruited college students from the following platforms:
   a. UMW students 17 and over from the general psychology course
   b. College aged students 18 and over from various social media platforms
2. Participants were asked to complete an online survey consisting of 45 questions total. There were 4 surveys, each survey consisted of 9 questions.
3. A total of 56 participants data was analyzed using SPSS.
4. A Multivariate Linear Regression was conducted.
   a. The predictor variable in this analysis was the different parenting styles: authoritarian, permissive, and authoritative
   b. The criterion variable that were measured are self-control, interpersonal connections, and emotional response

Results

Emotional Maturity

Object Relations

Parental Authority

Self Control
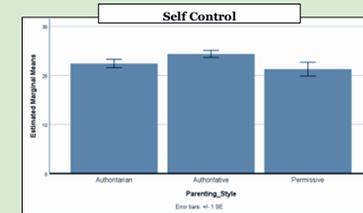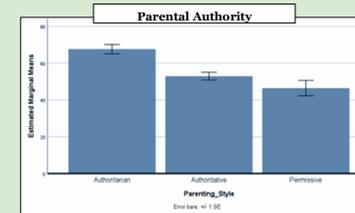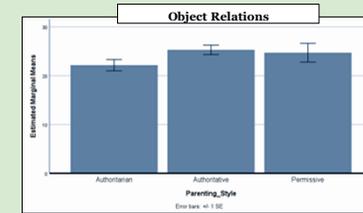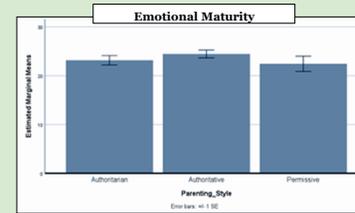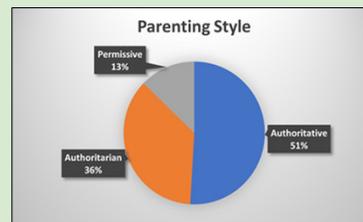
Multiple Comparisons

Tukey HSD

Dependent Variable	(I) Parenting_Style	(J) Parenting_Style	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
						Lower Bound	Upper Bound
AVERAGE PARENTAL AUTHORITY	Authoritarian	Authoritative	14.71*	3.300	.000	6.73	22.68
		Permissive	21.20*	4.873	.000	9.43	32.97
	Authoritative	Authoritarian	-14.71*	3.300	.000	-22.68	-6.73
		Permissive	6.50	4.675	.354	-4.79	17.79
	Permissive	Authoritarian	-21.20*	4.873	.000	-32.97	-9.43
		Authoritative	-6.50	4.675	.354	-17.79	4.79

Discussion

Majority of parenting styles are most often Authoritative or Authoritarian, with least amount of parenting being Permissive. The data regarding the correlation between parenting styles and self-control, interpersonal relationships, and emotional response showed non-significant results. However,

- Parental authority is highest among authoritarian parenting
- Emotional maturity, Object Relations, and Self-control are highest among authoritative parenting

Future Research

- Repeat the study with subjects who fall within the emerging adulthood age category.
- Open the study to all individuals, not just college students.
- Determine the relationship between single-parent households and parenting styles and how it affects developmental processes in emerging adults.

References

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