

# A correlation study of Decision Making and Parenting Style

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## ABSTRACT

*The present study aimed to study the relationship of decision making with parenting style, namely fathers responsiveness, mothers responsiveness, parental responsiveness, fathers control, mothers control and parental control. pearson product moment correlation coefficient was calculated to study the relationship between the two variables. The results of the study concluded that the decision making is positively and significantly correlated to parental responsiveness and parental control, for both the parents collectively and separately. Hence, the study concludes that responsiveness and control offered by both the parents play a vital role in developing decision making ability in their adolescent children.*

**Keywords-** *Adolescents, Decision Making, Parenting Style, Parental Responsiveness and Parental Control.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a developmental stage between childhood and adulthood. The process of puberty starts during this period which leads to, numerous hormonal changes, influencing the body and the brain of an adolescent. During adolescence period many cognitive abilities like decision making, judgment, planning, thinking, etc are still developing. This incomplete development is due to the immature or still developing pre-frontal cortex, i.e. the executing centre of the brain.

Decision making is one of the most important cognitive ability that is required in everyday life. Decision may be big or small, important or less important but it significantly influences one's life and need to be carefully carried out. A good decision can change the life of an individual constructively; on the other hand, a wrong decision can destroy the life completely.

But, now the question arises, whom to depend on or seek help while making a decision? Especially, in the case of adolescents, they are not mature enough to make decisions independently. They often rely on others for their decisions. They seek help from their parents, teachers, peers and friends to make decision, like choosing a dress, course or whether to go out for a late night party or not? This sometimes results in good decisions while sometimes results in bad decisions, depending on the source they are relying on to seek guidance to make decision.

### 1.1 DECISION MAKING

Decision making is a cognitive ability to select a choice from the various alternatives. It is not a random selection of choice but depends on an individual's need, knowledge, experiences, values and beliefs. It is a scientific process involving the following steps:

- a) Identifying and understanding the problem or the issue,
- b) Exploring all the possible solutions/alternatives,
- c) Determining their pros and cons,
- d) Picking the most suitable solution/alternative,
- e) Operationalising the chosen solution/alternative,
- f) Evaluating, whether the decision taken was correct or not.

### 1.2 PARENTING STYLE

Parents are the individuals who beget an offspring. The parents' role is not only to give birth to a child but it's their duty to provide them with a congenial environment that may bring maximum development in them. This development may be physical, intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual or psychological. It is very interesting to know that the characteristics a child possesses are not only environmental but are hereditary also.

According to Gafoor and Kurukkan (2014) activities of parents aim at helping their child to bring forth in every aspect of life. There are two main dimensions of parenting style:

- a) Parental responsiveness- parental responsiveness is their warmth, supportiveness, and acceptance for their children.
- b) Parental control- parental control is a behavioural control over their children, to make them obey their rules and regulations.

Reviewing the literature many studies concluded on the relation of decision making with parenting style. Influence of parenting style on adolescents' decision making was studied by Bednar and Fisher (2003) and found that adolescents raised by authoritative parents tended to refer to their parents for moral and informational decisions, while adolescents raised by authoritarian, permissive, or neglecting-rejecting parents more often referenced their peers for these decisions. Parental responsiveness was found to be a significant factor in determining the source of adolescent's decision making assistance.

Relation with father and mother was separately studied by Sim (2003) and found that physical and emotional distance is seen in father-child relation whereas mother-child relation is enriched by a high level of attachment and intimacy. Father's characteristics are moderate links between mother characteristics and adolescents' attributes. The link between the mother's responsiveness and self-worth became stronger as father responsiveness increased.

According to Grusec and Davidov (2007), a parent continuously expressing love and affection induces positive mood in their children, a continuous positive and satisfying parent-child interaction results in controlled

impulses and behaviours.

Rehman and Butt F (2016) found that there exists a significant positive relationship between parental attachment and identity development, especially with the attachment to the mothers. Costa and Faria (2017), studied parental role in the adolescents' development is widely described as a challenge, particularly regarding their involvement in school education. The findings of the study indicate that the establishment of rules, monitoring and support were very challenging and important to the adolescents' development.

Mishra and Kiran (2018) acknowledged adolescence with authoritarian fathers demonstrated low social anxiety in comparison to authoritative and permissive fathers. High social anxiety was seen among adolescents with permissive fathers. The social anxiety of the adolescents of authoritative mothers was found to be better in comparison to the adolescents of mothers adopting a permissive and authoritarian parenting style.

## 2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To study the relationship of Decision Making with Parenting Style of adolescents.

- a. Fathers Responsiveness,
- b. Mothers Responsiveness,
- c. Parental Responsiveness,
- d. Fathers Control,
- e. Mothers Control,
- f. Parental Control.

## 3. HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

There exists no significant relationship between decision making and parenting style of adolescents.

- a. Fathers Responsiveness,
- b. Mothers Responsiveness,
- c. Parental Responsiveness,
- d. Fathers Control,
- e. Mothers Control,
- f. Parental Control.

## 4. SAMPLE AND METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

A sample of 150 students (75 boys and 75 girls) studying in class 11<sup>th</sup> in Arts, Science and Commerce streams were randomly selected as shown in table-1

Table -1 Distribution of Sample

Gender	Arts	Science	Commerce	Total
Boys	25	25	25	75
Girls	25	25	25	75

Descriptive survey method was used for the present study. Data was collected using two standardized tools,

Making Decisions in Everyday Life by Mincemoyer Perkins and Munyua (2001) revalidated by the investigators according to the Indian conditions and Scale of Parenting Style by Gafoor and Kurukkan (2014). The collected data was analyzed as per instructions given in the respective manuals, and was subjected to statistical analysis. Pearson Product Moment method of Correlation was calculated to test the hypothesis.

## 5. RESULTS, DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

### Testing the hypothesis

Table 2 shows the calculated coefficient of correlation, of decision making with parenting style, namely fathers responsiveness, mothers responsiveness, parental responsiveness, fathers control, mothers control and Parental Control.

Table- 2: Coefficient of Correlation between Decision Making and Parenting Style, namely Fathers, Mothers and Parental Responsiveness; Fathers, Mothers and Parental Control.

S.N.	Variables	Coff. of correlation	Level Of Sig.
1	Decision Making with Fathers Responsiveness	0.238**	0.01
2	Decision Making with Mothers Responsiveness	0.347**	0.01
3	Decision Making with Parental Responsiveness	0.176*	0.05
4	Decision Making with Fathers Control	0.384**	0.01
5	Decision Making with Mothers Control	0.364**	0.01
6	Decision Making with Parental Control	0.187*	0.05

The perusal of table 2, reveals that, decision making among adolescents is positively and significantly correlated to the responsiveness and control of both the parents separately and collectively. Decision making is significantly and positively correlated to fathers and mothers responsiveness, and fathers and mothers control, individually at 0.01 level of significance. While collectively Parental responsiveness, (sum of fathers and mothers responsiveness) and Parental Control (sum of fathers and mothers control) is positively and significantly correlated to the dependent variable at 0.05 level of significance.

Parental Responsiveness is the parents support, warmth and acceptance for their children. While, parental control is the parents behavioural control over their children. Decision Making is a cognitive ability of making a choice among all the possible alternatives. The results reveal that both supportive and controlling parenting style is essential to develop good Decision Making ability in their children. Further, responsiveness and control of father as well as mother plays a vital role in enabling their adolescent to make a rational and appropriate decision in their life. This is because of the security level and the care they get from the parents that make them confident in making right decisions.

Concluding one can say that, parental responsiveness and parental control both leave a significant influence on the decision making ability of adolescents. Both enhances the decision making ability of their adolescent children.

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