



QUALITATIVE FACTORS AFFECTING CHILD REARING PRACTISES IN TAMENGLONG DISTRICT, MANIPUR: AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This article is an attempt to focus the different qualitative factors affecting child rearing practises. Rather than single broad factor, child rearing constitutes of various factors that together determine how children are brought up by their parents. Techniques like Introspection, Observation, Interviewing, and Meta-analysis helps in the identification of the qualitative factors affecting child rearing practises. The different factors affecting that are identified include Acceptance, Punishment, Protectiveness, Responsibility, Responsiveness, Reward, Understanding, Non critical, Permissiveness, Encouragement, Rapport, Emotional stability and Patience. This multi-factor approach to child rearing would throw some understanding upon the different aspects of parenting and also helps parents and prospective parents to concentrate on those aspects which need improvement on their part of parent skills.

INTRODUCTION:

It is a universally recognized fact that early Child rearing practises has had a great impact on a child's growth and development. Growth means increase in weight, height, etc while development is a series of qualitative changes in one's life. Thus, both involve qualitative and quantitative changes. Such changes whether in a desirable or undesirable directions largely depends on the practises adopted by the parents specially the mother during pre and post natal period. During pre natal period, the beliefs and practises of a pregnant mother are the influencing factors of psycho-physical development of a child. And the post natal practises such as a child's environment, feeding styles, techniques of toilet training, techniques of socialization, health care etc largely affect the child's adaptive behaviour.

Child rearing practises is a generalized term used to refer to characteristics ways of handling or dealing with one's children (Judy 2000). How parents bring up their children and how parental characteristics are infused into child personality are questions that continue to inspire research (Kail and Cavanaugh 2000). It is the parents that the child had his first social relationship in which and through which he acquires and organises his experiences the social patterns, habits, manners and attitudes which determines his future adjustments and they remain the strongest influence in his development. This overwhelming importance of parenting has led developmental psychologists to take an intense interest in parents child interactions (Tilker 1975).

The research findings reviewed in the paper by O' Connor and Scott (2007) demonstrated that parenting and parenting intervention programmes are rightly seen as a public health matter. Improving the quality of parent child relationship can be expected to have positive effects on the individuals and family and on the society as a whole parenting across early childhood plays a unique role in children development. When children fail to adapt to society norm's, most parents make many complaints about their children and they often worried and tensed about their child's incompetence and inabilities. These parents should realise that they are the people who can incorporate all the necessary abilities and competencies of life into their child. It is a fact that the experiences that a child gets from his parent equip him to excel in life. The way in which the parents bring up their children surely influences positive aspects of their personality. It is to be made sure that parents look into the different aspects of parenting.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The objective of the present study is to identify the different areas or sub variables of child rearing in Tamenglong District, Manipur. The hypotheses of the study are formulated according to this objective and an analysis is done to find out the factors related to child rearing.

METHODOLOGY:

The different areas or sub variables of child rearing are identified and selected through different qualitative methods. The methods include introspective thoughts by researcher, variety of discussions related to topic and extensive review of related literatures. Thus, the factors affecting child rearing practises were identified using Meta-analysis, interview, observation and introspection Technique.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

By using the qualitative techniques of meta analysis, interview, observation and introspection. The researcher was able to identify thirteen variables as factors effecting child rearing which constitutes how parents bring up their children. The

factors include acceptance, punishment, protectiveness, responsibility, responsiveness, reward, understanding, Non critical, permissiveness, encouragement, rapport, emotional stability and patience. An explanation of each factor is given below.

Acceptance:

This refers to considering someone or something as satisfactory and welcoming. Every human being wishes to be accepted by all others. Parents are the people who are believed to accept their children irrespective of the behaviour of their children. But all children do not feel accepted to the same level. There are differences in the way of children feel accepted or rejected which is directly related to how parents behaved towards them. This difference in parental acceptance is sure to be effect the behaviour of the children.

Punishment:

The term refers to that which causes someone who has done something wrong or committed an offense to suffer. There are many situations when parents get irritated by what the children do and punish their children. Punishment may be in the form of scolding, beating, not giving attention etc. Parents also differ in degree to which they punish their children and even the same level of punishment may have different effect on different children. Therefore it is very important for the parents to perfectly understand their children before giving them any sort of punishment because the perception of the parents behaviour is sure to affect the personality and behaviour pattern of children.

Protectiveness:

This refers to wishing to keep someone or something safe from injury, damage or loss. In the child's life parents are the people who provide him with maximum protection. They are the people who have the greatest concern regarding their children. It is expected that parents are always available whenever the child feels their need and supervision. This protective behaviour may not be present in all the parents in the same level. Some parents may show over protectiveness and some others may not show any concern which may reach the level of carelessness. Whatever be the level and direction it is sure to have an eminence effect on the child.

Responsibility:

This means having good adjustment and ability to act correctly and make decision on our own. Responsibility is the quality that is expected in all individuals in the society. Some parents consciously try to imbibe this quality into their children. Some parents automatically or unknowingly impart responsibility into their children. Some others are not bothered at all. All these behaviour on the part of the parents are supposed to have tremendous impact on the behaviour pattern of their children.

Responsiveness:

This refers to making a quick and positive response to someone or something children always want their parents to support them, react positive toward them, have pleasant feeling toward them, be friendly, loving and caring and always be for them in whatever situation they are in some parents because of many reasons may not be available to their children when they are in need. This lack of responsiveness may have negative impact on children.

Reward:

It is something given in exchange for good behaviour or good work. Reward is

believed to strengthen the behaviour which follows it, as against punishment which is expected to weaken the behaviour that precedes it. Rewards need not be always be materialistic. How children perceive the rewarding behaviour is very important as their expectation and hope may be sometimes very different from what they get when what they expect and what they get are similar any reward is priceless.

Understanding:

Children always want their parents to be understanding. Understanding means having the ability to know the how someone else is feeling or what their situation is and forgiving them if they do something wrong. Parents are considered to be the most important people in the life of a child. Parents are expected to show unconditional love toward their children and love without expecting anything in return. When children feel that there is no one to understand and help them, it may lead to a negative dishonest and unhappy parent – child relationship.

Non-critical:

This means unwilling or being unable to or criticize or find for faults. Most people seems to be critical in their behaviour that is, people always expect in finding the faults in others. But, the fact is that all the people want others to be non-critical. When it comes to parents, children never want them to find their faults; not even look out for their faults. But this is not always the case. Parents criticize their children with the hope that it will be for the good of their children. Some children may take this in a positive sense, but some may feel that parents are portraying them in the wrong way in front of others. Creating a “good for nothing” attitude in a child is the worst thing any parent can do to a child.

Control:

It means to order, limit, instruct or rule something or someone's actions or behaviours. Most parents are however not sure as to the amount of control that is to be exerted on their children sometimes this confusion may lead the children to get an impression, which is not the same as what their parents intend to sometimes this controlling behaviour of their parents may go to such an extreme that it may be difficult for the child to tolerate. Each child is unique and children differ in the way they are affected by the control permissiveness dimension of the behaviour of their parents.

Encouragement:

It is something that should be giving by the parents to their children to manifest desired behaviour. Parents have the duty to imbibe into the child certain qualities that are considered to be good. The words and behaviours of parents should give confidence to the child to manifest desired behaviour patterns. But sometimes what is considered to be encouragement by the parents may be perceived by the child, which no parent wants and for this the parents should show such behaviour which will boost the confidence and energy in their child.

Rapport:

This refers to a harmonious understanding or relationship. It means a good understanding of someone an ability to communicate well with them. Most children want their parents to behave in a friendly manner towards them. Parents are considered to be the people with whom one can completely open up their thoughts and feelings whatever happens between the parents and children the harmonious relationship is always expected to exist. As the rapport between parents and children increases, the happiness also increases. However all parents do not maintain a good rapport with their children which will have a negative effect on the parent – child relationship.

Emotional stability:

This means emotionally and mentally balanced and consistent. There are immense circumstances where people loss their balance and get irritated. For a healthy personality we have to maintain emotion stability. Emotional instability on the part of the parents can have a very negative effect on their children which may cause children to be hesitant and not open up with their parent.

Patience:

This refers to the ability to bear or suffer something unpleasant or annoying. This quality of patience makes the parent child relationship smoother and less problematic. A hostile environment will make the situation worse and hostility on the part of the parents may weaken parent – child relationship. If parents can tolerate the negative and stressful situations, in their life they can be a good model to their children can learn from how their parents handle the difficult circumstances in their life and this will strengthen the bond. Both patience and importance on the part of parents are sure to influence the children.

CONCLUSION:

It can be concluded that all the thirteen variables describe above together constitute how the parents bring up their children. Children may also perceive the behaviour of their parents in terms of these variables. All the variables identified as sub variable of child rearing can be viewed in the following ways.

Parents consider their children as a satisfactory and welcoming, irrespective of the behaviour of the children. They punish the children when they do something wrong or commit a mistake. Parents keep their children safe from injury, damage, or loss parents help their children to have good judgement and to develop the

ability to act correctly and to take decisions on their own, parents make a positive and quick reaction to their children. They give their children sometime in charge of good behaviour.

Parents are expected to have the ability to know how their children are feeling and what their situation is, parents also need not find faults in their children. The control of permissiveness exerted on the children is also important. Parents should also encourage their children to manifest desired behaviour. There should be a harmonious understanding between the parent and the child. Parents are also expected to be emotionally and mentally balanced and consistent and are expected to have the ability to bear something unpleasant and annoying. Parents should keep in mind all these relevant aspects, so that their children can perceive them as good parents, which may lead to a healthy parent – child relationship. This, in turn, may instill desirable qualities into the child which may help him or her to attain success in his life.

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