

## **Relationships between Fatherhood Practices and Good Social Behavior of Children**

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This paper discusses the role of fatherhood in relation to good social behaviour of children. Objectives of the study were to find out fatherhood practices of secondary school students and analyze the practices in relation to good social behaviour of children to explore the practices that are effective to improve the behaviour of children but fathers mostly do not adopt them. The study was completed following the procedure of survey method. A sample of the study was 50 schools, 250 secondary school students (14 to 15 years of age) and 250 teachers who were selected following the procedure of multistage random sampling. Tools of the study were two questionnaires depending upon items on a 4-point scale; fatherhood practices scale and social behaviour scale. Data about fatherhood practices was collected from children while data about social behaviour was collected from teachers who were requested to rate different behaviours of students in different situations on the basis of their observation. Questionnaires to students and their teachers were distributed in schools and collected back on the same day. The students and teachers were informed about the objectives of the study and data collection before the distribution of questionnaires to them. Data of study was analyzed calculating mean score and correlation between scores of groups related to fatherhood practice and their social behaviour scores noted on the basis of their teachers' observation by applying statistics using SPSS on the computer. Results indicated that stressing children to be systematic in studies and helping them in studies, encourage children to freely express themselves and educate them about dealing to elders/ friends of parents, help children for in time management for study and play, spend free time with children and never ignore the misbehavior of children with anyone, talk with children about their feelings, likes and dislikes, and criticize them for their improvement are positively related to the good social behavior of children but unfortunately fathers poorly adopt these practices. Therefore, need is to focus on planning to educate fathers for effective fatherhood practices.

**Key Words:** *Fatherhood, parenting practices, parenting styles, social behaviour, good behaviour*

### **Introduction**

Social behaviour includes the psychological aspects of how humans are related to each other, and how they interact with each other. (Harper & Fine, 2006). The work of Bandura (1977) for social learning theory is remarkable regarding the literature on social behavioural. It gives most importance to learn by observation, simulation and demonstration. According to him, children learn what they observe

and face. Behaviour and attitudes of others compel children to act in reaction. Effective conditions for effective social behaviour of children include; attention, retention, reproduction and motivation. Children learn good social interaction skills by connecting with people, especially; parents, friends and society. These social behaviours are maintained in children through the support of their elders (Culp, Schadle, Robinson, & Culp, 2000).

But fathers' participation is most positively interrelated with children's overall social competence, imitativeness, maturity, and relative abilities. There is a great impact of a father's participation in childcare on children's social development (Ito & Izumi-Taylor, 2013). Fathers belonging to different social groups adopt different practices to train their children for future life. They adopt different practices according to their thinking, understanding and experiences. All fathers want their children best in all fields of life and want their children to be admired and accepted by all in social gatherings at all stages of life. But, some of the fathers' parenting practices results in the form of failure to prove their children best or successful by social behaviour. Therefore, need is to explore and understand; which traits of the father are helpful in the good social behaviour of children. Researchers have found a positive relationship between a father's involvement with children' social behaviour. Father's forceful parenting behaviour has a significant relationship with the antisocial behaviour of children. (Sharma, Sharma, & Yadava, 2011). Children of sensitive fathers have found more sensible, respectful and ideal in their behaviour. Father's sacrifices, efforts, keen monitoring and involvement in behavioural education results in the form of positive behaviour and the success of

his children. According to Culp, Schadle, Robinson, and Culp (2000), the father's negative interaction with children leads to an increased risk of negative social behaviour, academic difficulties and failures. Cook, Buehler and Fletcher (2012) found that the father's high degree of aggression has a significant effect on adolescent negative social behaviour, which in turn indicates a decrease in peer acceptance. Flouri and Buchanan (2003) observed that most fathers are sensitive to their children' games and communications with others. They provide safer, healthier relationships with their children. Children involved with father show great abilities to develop tolerance and understanding with others. With the help of the father, children can participate in supportive social networks including long-term close friendships.

East, Jackson and O'Brien (2006) stated that children of participating fathers are more likely to have positive friendships, welcome and love. Harper and Fine (2006) reported the father's participation in childcare to have a direct impact on the whole social development of children. Alizadeh, AbuTalib, Abdullah and Mansor (2011) views children of involved fathers resolve the conflict themselves rather than seeking others assistance. Panter-brick et al. (2014) found that a father's warmth and parenting

significantly predict the moral maturity of children and also associated with internal moral judgment, moral values and rules of conformity for their children. Zaman, Arslan, Malik, and Mehmood (2014) believe that behaviour of a child depends upon parenting style and many factors contribute to shaping parenting styles that may be the external environment, support, love, affection, and opportunities. Wolf (2000) inferred that relationships have been examined between parent/child and their possible influence on self-esteem. The results found significantly higher global, scholastic and physical self-esteem in children of parents practising the authoritative parenting style in comparison to authoritarian fathers parenting styles (Wolff, 2000). In previous studies, it was concluded that authoritative parenting based on reasoning, thoughtfulness, harmony, and trust resulted in pro-social behaviour while authoritarian fathers parenting based on strict rules, power, threat and punishments resulted in anti-social behaviour. Therefore, Mensah and Kuranchie (2013) are in favour to adopt an authoritative parenting style to enable their children to develop pro-social behaviour. Terry (2004) found that authoritarian fathers parenting was highly correlated with violations of law, especially for students with poor personality and low family cohesion. Results of Talib,

Mohamad, and Mamat (2011) also explain that parents' authoritative styles have positive impacts on children' behaviour and academic attainment. In comparison, the permissive, neglectful and authoritarian styles have negative impacts on children' behaviour and academic attainment in school. Results of Bartholomeu, Montiel, Jr, and Machado (2016) suggest that positive parental styles are predictors of self-sacrifice, while negative parental styles are predictors of assertiveness, conversation, and social confidence. Therefore, in conclusion, it seems that different social behaviours of children are related to positive and negative parenting practices and styles. The present study was conducted to evaluate the fatherhood parenting practices in relation to good social behaviour of children". This study is important because it has concluded the positive fatherhood practices that are related to the good social behaviour of children. Fathers can get guidelines from this study to understand the ways to develop positive social behaviour among children. It has assumed that this study can be a step for developing a plan for positive social development of children that are necessary for positive personality development of children.

### **Objectives of the Study**

This study was conducted to;

1. Investigate the parenting practices of fathers that are not significantly linked with good social behaviour of children but parents have adopted in general.
2. Examine the good parenting practices of fathers that are significantly connected to good social behaviours of their children and fathers have adopted too.
3. Explore good parenting practices that fathers poorly adopt while dealing with the social behaviour of their children.

### **Research Questions**

On the basis of the objectives of this study, the following research questions were framed.

1. Which parenting practices are not significantly related to the positive social behaviours of children but parents have adopted?
2. Which positive parenting practices of fathers are significantly connected with good social behaviour of children and fathers have also adopted in general?
3. Which positive parenting practices fathers poorly adopt for good social behaviour of their children in general?

### **Methodology**

This study was completed following the procedure of descriptive research. A survey using questionnaires

(on the 4-point Likert scale) regarding fatherhood good practices (25 items) and social behaviour (58 items) was conducted. Data of the study was required about the fatherhood good styles and social behaviour of children. For this purpose multistage sampling was done. At first, five districts of Bahawalpur were included in the sample and one district was considered as a cluster. On the next stage, 10 schools from each tehsil were chosen randomly. Therefore, a sample of 50 schools from Bahawalpur District was chosen. Furthermore, 5 teachers and 5 students (one of the second class students of every teacher) were randomly chosen from available teachers and students in each school on the day of data collection. While sample selection, it was kept in mind that one teacher will evaluate one child. Therefore, a total sample of the study comprised of 5 districts, 50 schools, 250 teachers and 250 students of secondary classes (between 14 to 15 years of age). At the stage of data collection from schools, a meeting with the sample was arranged with the permission of school heads. Students and teachers were informed about the objectives of the study and data collection on questionnaires. Sample students (250) were requested to rate the fatherhood practices' related items on a questionnaire keeping in mind the parenting practices of their father.

Teachers were requested to evaluate the behaviour of their student on the basis of their observation about the social behaviour of students in different situations.

Reliability of tools was analyzed through Cronbach's alpha value of fatherhood practices scale and students' behaviour scale was 0.890 and 0.798 respectively that indicated high internal consistency of the tools. At the stage of data analysis, the case of each child (fatherhood data and child's good social behaviour score based on teachers' rating) was treated as one case. Furthermore, the mean score of each item regarding the fatherhood practices

was calculated and the correlation between each fatherhood practice and students' behaviour related cumulative score was calculated using SPSS on the computer.

### **Results and Interpretation**

Table 1 to four shows results about the parenting practices of fathers. Results in this part were arranged under; fathers' parenting practices that they commonly adopt or poorly adopt in relation to the significance of practices for association with children' behaviour score. Mean score of 3.50 and above was taken as a criterion to accept respondents' agreement to the item.

**Table 1**

*Good fatherhood practices with children' good behaviour and fathers have adopted*

Sr. no	Parenting practices	Descriptive statistics about the fathers' parenting data				Correlation between parenting practice and behaviour score	
		Sum	Mean	SD	Variance		
1	Giving money to children.	919	3.676	.678	.461	.052	.416
2	Caring for dressing of children.	910	3.640	.675	.456	.076	.231
3	Be anxious when child reach home late	900	3.600	.664	.442	.051	.422
4	Considering food related choices of children	892	3.568	.599	.359	.084	.189
5	Advising children	881	3.524	.787	.620	.063	.320

*Note: All items in this table shows mean score above 3.50 that was decided to understand respondent' agreement to the items regarding parenting practices., All r values are showing the insignificant relationship between two constructs reported in the table*

Table 1 indicates some good practices of father that they mostly adopt with their children. Data exhibits children' agreement to the admirable behaviour of their fathers that shows love and care of

fathers with their children. This is eminent from data that fathers give sufficient money to children that enables them to fulfil their needs. They take care of their children' dressing and consider likings of

children regarding favourite foods. On the other hand, the father also takes care of children and remain anxious about reaching their children at home timely. For the modelling good social behaviour of children, they also advise children to remain conscious and take safe steps in life. Analysis of the value of correlation between the scores related to specific behaviours with students' cumulative

social behaviour scores indicates an insignificant but positive relationship. This teaches father to not give importance to these practices. But, keep in mind that performing these practices can add a little benefit to satisfy the social needs of children that ultimately play a little benefit in improving the social behaviour of their children

**. Table 2**

*Good fatherhood practices with children' good behaviour and fathers have adopted*

Sr.no	Parenting practices	Descriptive statistics about the fathers' parenting data				Correlation between parenting practice and behaviour score	Sig.
		Sum	Mean	SD	Variance		
1	Praising children on doing well	946	3.784	.458	.210	.200**	.002
2	Point out mistakes of children in comprehend able way	944	3.776	.471	.223	.310**	.000
3	Probes the reason for failure of children.	917	3.668	.662	.440	.249**	.000
4	Fulfill desires of children in available sources.	906	3.624	.554	.308	.156*	.014
5	Appreciate children when they try to become independent	899	3.596	.646	.418	.323**	.000
6	Celebrates successes of children	893	3.572	.674	.455	.169**	.008
7	Emphasizes children to be successful	892	3.568	.731	.536	.193**	.002
8	Investigate the reasons for reaching home late	888	3.552	.785	.618	.149*	.019
9	Describe feelings on good and bad behavior of children	881	3.524	.677	.459	.130*	.040

*Note: All items in this table shows the mean score above 3.50 that was decided to understand respondent' agreement to the items about parenting practices, \*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed), \*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).*

Table 2 indicates some practices that have a significant relationship with the social behaviour of children. According to data, praising the children on doing well, pointing out children' mistakes in comprehend-able ways, asking children for reasons of their failure, fulfilling children' desires, appreciating children to become

independent, stressing children to get success and celebrate their success too, inquire children about coming late to home, and explaining feelings about the good and bad behaviour of children have significant association with the behaviour of children. Analysis of mean scores

indicates children's strong agreement that

their fathers have adopted these styles.

**Table 3**

*Good fatherhood practices to students' good behaviour but father poorly adopt them*

Sr.no	Parenting practices	Descriptive statistics about the fathers' parenting data				Correlation between parenting practice and behaviour score	Sig.
		Sum	Mean	SD	Variance		
1	Emphasize children to be systematic in studies.	785	3.140	.705	.498	.247**	.000
2	Help children me in studying.	755	3.020	.975	.951	.326**	.000
3	Encourage children to freely express themselves even father disagree with children	846	3.384	.649	.422	.181**	.004
4	Educate children about the ways to deal with father's friends.	822	3.288	.890	.792	.256**	.000
5	Criticize children with the purpose of behavioral improvement.	781	3.124	.784	.615	.151*	.017
6	Encourage children to speak about their feelings and problems.	771	3.084	.794	.631	.154*	.015
7	Organize time to play with children.	681	2.724	1.108	1.229	.256**	.000
8	Questions about ways to spend free time.	768	3.072	.884	.782	.208**	.001
9	Monitor children' games and activities.	718	2.872	.864	.747	.340**	.000
10	Spends free time with children.	697	2.788	.859	.738	.198**	.002
11	Criticize bad behavior of children	696	2.784	.961	.925	.183**	.004

*Note: All items in this table shows mean score below 3.50 that was decided to understand respondent' disagreement to the items about parenting practices., \*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed), \*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).*

Table 3 shows parenting practices of fathers that are significantly related to good social behaviour of their children but unfortunately, fathers poorly adopt them. Analysis of mean score about items indicates that children agreed that their father poorly encourages them to express freely. They also not well explain to children about ways to behave with father's friends respectfully. Moreover, fathers also disregard to emphasize children for studying. They do not criticize children in a positive sense, avoid to listen to children' feelings and problems and avoid to guide children in their study. They do not monitor games of children and ignore when their children behave badly with others even in their presence. They also poorly spend free time with children. This gives a lesson to fathers to focus on these behaviours for the sake of good social behaviour of children.

## Discussion

According to the definition of gender roles in different cultures, father and mother are accountable for different

responsibilities in different societies. In Pakistan, mostly mother is responsible for household issues and child care matters. She is accountable for each and everything belonging to the whole family. Consequently, in case of any problem regarding the health, studies or behavioural issues of children, the mother is criticized much more by saying "she has ignored her children". But, the literature on the topic helps to conclude that father and mother are equally responsible for each and everything about their children. Practical observations in real life help to assume that joint effort of father and mother always benefit to children a lot. Therefore, need is to understand that mother alone cannot fulfil all needs of children with respect to the whole development of children from all aspects of life. It should be considered by people that the role of the father in the positive social behaviour of children is eminent because of developing confidence in children and giving broad awareness about the outer world by father's angle who deal more in outer world than of mother in a country like Pakistan. After analyzing the results of the study, a brief discussion on key findings of this study has been given in the next. The present study has found out eminent themes regarding the issues under investigation. This study has explored some admiring but many

weaknesses in the practices of fathers regarding the good social behaviours of children. Results indicate that fathers mostly adopt numerous practices that are not important to adopt in the sense that these are irrelevant to affect children' social behaviour in positive or negative perspectives (see table 1). This gives a message to fathers to understand; what is important or inconsequential for them in relation to positive social behaviour of children? No doubt, advising children to be careful about actions, becoming anxious to think about children' reaching late at home, fulfilling children' financial needs, remaining careful about good food and dressing according to fashion is important to satisfy internal satisfaction of children but not very helpful to make children socially ideal. A part of the results of this study has exposed that father mostly ignores some good practices that are much related to the good social behaviour of children (see table 3). This signifies an alarming situation for fathers to be serious about their behaviour and focus to adopt; what is important and what is not important for them? Results simplifies that focusing on children' study routine, giving them liberty to speak fairly and freely, teaching children about acknowledged manners to deal seniors, criticizing children with aim to teach to learn from mistakes, sharing ideas to

understand children' emotions, helping children to manage time for play and studies, allowing children to play, indirect monitoring of children, taking actions on mistakes/misbehaviour of children and spending free time with children are important in a way to produce admirable social attitudes, behaviors and skills but unfortunately fathers ignore these practices. Results have indicated that fathers poorly adopt these behaviors while treating their children. This also gives a sign that fathers rely on authoritative parenting styles. Previously, Kausar and Shafique (2008) also concluded that parents in Pakistan are authoritative especially with daughters in relation to socio-emotional behavioral modifications.

Previously, Terry (2004) found out that authoritarian fatherhood often leads to child towards, admiration, obedience and talented, but they rank lower in terms of contentment, pleasure, social skills and self-confidence but highly correlated with violations of laws. Therefore, need is to critically evaluate the reasons behind the situation. In the scenarios of the present situation in Pakistan, a number of reasons are possible behind the poor or negative fatherhood practices. The low academic status of father, insecure outer environment, low life vision, autocratic behaviour of men by traditions, can be reasons behind the fathers' lacking in

adopting poor fatherhood practices. So, need is to teach admirable fatherhood practices adopting several ways to fathers in Pakistan and all around the world having a similarity with cultural values and traditions in Pakistan. Keeping in mind the effect of media on the attitude of people in the present age, different programs can be telecasted in the form of dramas or discussions on television. Moreover, a further study on the topic is needed to explore the reasons behind fathers' wrong practices of parenthood in Pakistan and other regions of the world similar to Pakistan. Analysis of the results of this study also indicates that fatherhood practices have a relationship with children' behaviour. Previously, Bartholomeu et al. (2016) also found the same result. Moreover, Rizvi and Najam (2015) also concluded a strong relationship about the parenting styles and emotional and behavioural working of children in Pakistan. Therefore, a study on the same issue needs to be conducted at a large scale to further verify the results.

Father's parenting has a positive relationship with children' good social behaviour. Social development of children is a part of the duties of fathers. Father needs to take careful steps in relation to his dealing with children. This study has pointed out some admiring attitudes of fathers in relation to dealing with children

for effective social behaviour. For example, fathers point out children's mistakes in a way that children easily understand, praise children on doing well, inquire children for the reasons of failure, appreciate children to be independent, celebrate the success of children, emphasize children to reach home timely and explain their expectations to children. But this study also found few effective practices that fathers poorly adopt. Analysis of these practices concludes that parents do not compel children to be systematic in studies and do not help them in studies. Parents discourage children to freely express themselves and not guide them about dealing with elders/ friends of parents. Parents do not help children in time management for study and play. They avoid to spend free time with children and ignore the misbehaviour of children with anyone. Parents ignore to talk with children about their feelings, likes, dislikes and do not criticize them for the sake of behavioural improvement. These parenting strategies have a positive association with students' good behaviour. But, Unfortunately, fathers poorly adopt these. Therefore, need is to aware fathers about the effective parenthood conditions and strategies and stress fathers to understand their responsibility. They need to understand that only mother is not responsible for the child's social

behaviour. Moreover, a longitudinal study on large scale is also needed.

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69.