The Effect of Parenting Styles of Original Families on Individual’s Close Relationship

Wei Fan *
Department of Psychology, University of California, Davis, 95616, United States
* Corresponding Author Email: tiffan@ucdavis.edu

Abstract. As a result of the development of the society, individuals have increasingly higher needs in relationship, which also leads to various roles playing in close relationship. Family is an essential influential factor to different choices of close relationship. In order to find out link between close relationship and family, this article summarizes precious articles about close relationship and parenting styles. Parenting styles are defined as complex activity that parents effect on children through demanding, controlling and responding children. Close relationship is mainly defined by closeness, including friendship and romantic relationship. Article combines attachment theory to analyze the link between parenting styles and close relationship. The conclusion is that individuals growing with growing in authoritative parenting style are more likely to develop healthy close relationship, which is more encouraged by researchers. As a result of great learning ability and rapid mental changing of children, personality of individuals can be influenced directly due to different parenting styles. Additionally, personality can influence on different choices of close relationship. Researchers have not explained how to analyze factors of close relationship in biological and gene way. In the future, scientists can continue to analyze various close relationship’s influential factors with different perspectives, especially genetics. This article helps scientists develop continuous research on developmental psychology and social psychology. Meanwhile, it encourages parenting style which is helpful to individuals to develop healthy close relationship.

Keywords: Close relationship; Original family; Parenting style.

1. Introduction

It is commonly concerned that increasing people will choose various close relationship, such as friendship and romantic relationship. Close relationship is a term to describe relationship around people make them feel optimal, such as romantic relationship, friendship and family relationship [1]. People take different roles in close relationship and have different expectations to their couples, resulting presenting different types of close relationship. The reason why this phenomenon emerges is abundant. From the perspective to researcher focusing on developmental psychology field, the most important is the parenting style received by individuals from the original family.

Original family refers the growing environment constructed by the individual and both parents. Parenting styles means the collaborative alliance of adults in original family who are responsible for raising the individual. Teenagers’ behavior and characteristics have directional prediction with parenting style offered by parents. There are many types of parenting styles, and each of them can lead to different types of close relationship of individuals.

Given the aforementioned concerns, this paper expected to research the effect given by parenting styles on close relationship of different individuals. Research will talk about the concept of parenting style and the concept of close relationship. Additionally, attachment theory will be talked about to illustrate how close relationship embodied in society environment. Given description of two concepts, they will be linked together, and the research will talk about how parenting style can influence on the various choice of close relationship.
2. Parenting Style

2.1 Concepts

Developmental psychologists called the complex activity that parents effect on children through demanding, controlling and responding children as parenting. Parenting can influence children in several ways, such as speaking, thinking and acting. In other words, the way parents interact with children can influence on the whole lifetime of children. In earlier stage, children tend to mimic parents’ behaviors. Children have strong ability to observe, and they tend to act the same way their parents behave. In other words, Diana Baumrind’s concept of parenting style allows researchers and scientists to describe broad parental milieu [2]. Parenting style means a concept to capture normal variations in parents' attempts to control and socialize their children [3]. In other words, parenting style means how parents implement their parenting ways and influence individuals’ future behaviors. Two aspects of parenting behavior are described by Diana Baumrind which were control and warmth. Control refers to demanding and instructions given by parents to children, which means that how parents expect children to involve with the environment of their family. Warmth refers to how responsive and accepting parents are of their children’s behavior [4]. Different degrees of the aforementioned two behaviors combine together can form four different types of parenting styles: authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and uninvolved.

2.2 Influence

Authoritative parents are both demanding and responsive [2]. Parents who implement authoritative parenting style always encourage their children to be independent. They set rules, but they also consider their adolescents’ feeling. In other words, they respect their children’s opinions and take their feeling. They tend to maintain positive relationships with their children. Children growing in authoritative parenting styles are always confident and independent. They know that their opinions are valued [4], so they are dare to express views. Children who receive authoritative parenting styles tend to be easy to make reasonable decisions and evaluate safety risks on their own after growing up as adults [5].

Authoritarian parents are highly demanding and controlling with little responsive behavior. They are always strict with their adolescents. In their world, parents’ demands are higher than everything including children’s feeling and opinions. They do not listen to children’s words. From authoritarian parents’ perspectives, children should accept everything parents arranged without any questions and rejections. Authoritarian parents always focus on punishment instead of positive discipline. Children who grow with authoritarian parenting style always form two extremities which are too rebellious or too dependent [4] Children who are rebellious always are easy to be aggressive, and children who are over-dependent always do not have own opinions while making decisions. Additionally, because of too many restrictions, children receiving authoritarian parenting styles sometimes become good liars in an effort to avoid punishment [5].

Permissive parents are highly warm and undemanding. This type of parents is always indulgent with their children and more responsive. They always try their best to satisfy children’s needs whatever they want, because parents do not want to disappoint their children. Permissive parents always are divided in two types: democratic which are more conscientious and engaged, and nondirective [2]. Children growing in such parenting style always have difficulty in self-control after growing up. They always tend to be egocentric, because their parents satisfy their requirements during childhood whatever they ask.

Uninvolved parenting styles are neither responsive nor demanding. Parents implement uninvolved parenting style do not care about children too much. In other words, they do not spend enough time on children’s growing. This type of parents does not pay attention to children. Instead, they always focus on something else, such as working and entertainment. Children growing up with such parenting style report that their parents always are interested in themselves in their opinion. As a
result, they tend to show similar patterns of behavior as adolescents raised in permissive parenting styles, because uninvolved children always want to attract parents’ attention.

3. Close Relationship

3.1 Concepts

Individuals rely on such relationship because they need the feeling of love. The term “closeness” which always shows with close relationship together refers to the degree which how dependent two individuals. The more frequent impact of thoughts, behaviors and feelings between two individuals are, researchers conclude that the closer this relationship between two individuals is [1]. Another definition refers that close relationship is the extent which how much an individual willing to pay for another individual [6]. Additionally, some researchers also conclude that close relationship is equate with commitment to the relationship [1] and outcomes linked to the commitment. For example, how much an individual is willing to sacrifice and forgive and see another individual as a part of himself [7].

3.2 Theory

In the close relationship, individuals always locate themselves in the appropriate roles while interacting. These roles are generally shaped by individuals’ childhood experience and personal preferences. In particular, some individuals may be positive, but some individuals may be negative. Scientists defined such phenomenon as attachment styles. Attachment theory is a psychological, evolutionary and ethological theory concerning relationships and bonds between people [8].

Generally, self-report adult attachment can be described as four types which are secure, anxious, avoidant, and disorganized. Additionally, two dimensions are defined to construct the foundation of these four categories which are “avoidance” and “anxiety” [9]. Avoidance refers to the expectation to maintain psychological independence. Anxiety is defined as strong needs for care and attention from mates [10]. Attachment theory proposes that secure attachment means the link of low avoidance and low anxiety. Adolescents always feel comfortable and safe during their childhood from caregivers. After growing up, individuals can securely attach others, and they are willing to engage in the society. Anxious refers to the combination of low avoidance and high anxiety. Adolescents always feel unstable and distress during childhood, because of inconsistent parenting styles or unstable environment. Individuals are lack of safety, want to satisfy others’ needs, and easy to be dependent with others after growing up. Avoidant consists of high avoidance and low anxiety. Parents always are absent or strict withe children with such attachment style. After growing up, children emerge a strong sense of independence. In other words, they do not need caring from others. Disorganized consists of both high avoidance and anxiety. Adolescents growing with such attachment style always suffer from abusing and trauma during childhood. After growing up, individuals always are unable to control emotion in close relationship [11]. Different types of attachment ways are constituted by different levels of avoidance and anxiety.

4. Effect of Parenting Style on Close Relationship

4.1 How Parenting Style Related to Close Relationship

Parenting style in childhood can affect individuals’ close relationship after growing up. As the aforementioned part, parenting style refers to growing environment constructed by parents or raising people during puberty. Generally, individuals always have rapid development in brains and thoughts during adolescents. According to Piaget, individuals develop the ability of learning to construct the cognitive development [12]. As a result of fast developed learning ability of children, parenting styles can influence individuals after growing up in a wide variety of ways, including personality, career choices and marriages. Generally speaking, individuals mimic caregivers’ behaviors and thinking
patterns implicitly. Parenting styles are divided into four types which are authoritative, authoritarian, permissive and involved. As a result of great learning ability and rapid mental changing, personality of individuals can be influenced directly due to different parenting styles. The effect which is combined with other factors can result in various decisions about careers and close relationship made by individuals. In most cases, individuals growing in families which are both demanding and controlling are more easily to begin the healthy close relationships. Individuals growing in authoritative parenting styles are more tended to be committed to couples, and are more willing to compromise for the betterment of the relationship [13]. On the contrary, individuals growing with low demanding and controlling are less easily to begin the healthy close relationship, because individuals are difficult to feel the believe and love. As a result, they are more difficult to do the betterment and commitment.

4.2 How Attachment Theory Apply to Close Relationship with Parenting Style

Attachment theory suggests that the experience of kids with caregivers during infant time can affect close relationship after being adults [14]. Although researchers have not had enough evidenced to mark it as the truth, researchers can demonstrate it by illustrating how four different parenting styles can predict close relationship during the lifetime of adults.

Secure attachment style develops from children growing with authoritative and permissive parenting style. Children who are respected and focused on by their parents are more possible to have a healthy relationship. Individuals growing in authoritative or permissive parenting styles always feel a great deal of love and respect when they growing up. Parents always satisfy their needs. As a result, after growing as adults, individuals always can analyze issues in close relationships more objectively. They are free from both repression and enmeshed, unresolved feelings and thoughts in close relationships [10].

Avoidant attachment style develops from family with uninvolved and authoritarian parenting style. Parents with uninvolved parenting style always are absent in adolescents’ childhood time. Authoritarian parents always are excessively strict with children. Individuals grow with those two parenting styles are readily to emerge strong senses and expectations of independence, because they have heard too much rejections during childhood. Avoidant attachment forms because of frequent rejections of parents. This type of attachment demonstrates how to seek support resulting in restricting acknowledgement of distress [15]. Individuals always reject to express their own feelings and needs in close relationships. Additionally, they are slow to respond mates’ needs. They require a bunch of personal spaces while interacting with others [11].

Anxious attachment style is possible to develop from each types of parenting style. Individuals with anxious attachment style always experience unstable environment. In other words, parenting styles from those adolescent’s parents can be varied and changeful. Their parents can be over emotional, resulting that sometimes they are kind and respectful but sometimes they are strict and nonchalant. They do not stick with a particular kind of parenting style. It even depends on their daily mental state. As a result, children growing in such environment always want to be seek love and respect after growing up. They are always over-sensitive and nervous in close relationship, because it is uncertain to ensure that their needs can be satisfied during childhood.

Disorganized attachment style develops from authoritarian parenting style. Individuals growing with authoritarian parenting style always are limited by a variety of restrictions and punishments. Parents are easy to turn punishment into abusing. Because of abusing and experience that parents cannot control their emotion appropriately, individuals are possible that cannot control emotion in close relationship. They always present disorganized attachment style while interacting with others.

5. Summary

It is important to focus on the link between parenting styles and close relationship of individuals, which is discussed in depth in this paper. Given the aforementioned literature review on this topic, it
can conclude that the excessive tensioned parenting style is detrimental to the individual’s close relationship, while the respectful and equal parenting style is good to individuals to develop the healthy close relationship. In many situations, it is beneficial to implement authoritative parenting style which is not only conducive to healthy close relationship, but also linked to the development of personality and other choices of individuals, such as careers and living. Therefore, authoritative parenting style always can lead to a healthy close relationship. Authoritarian parenting style always are over restricted for children. Parents give individuals focusing, but it is too much to leave any free spaces. Individuals growing in such environment always cannot give enough focus and may avoid mates’ caring in close relationship. Permissive parenting style always give individuals too much caring during childhood. Individuals growing in such environment always develop over dependent in close relationship. Uninvolved parenting style always neglect children’s needs, so children are possible to become excessively dependent or independent in close relationship.

However, the reason influencing close relationship is different and various, and the parenting style is only one key factor. Therefore, it is needed to research on it deeper to break out the limitation. From the perspective of social psychology, individuals not only just interact with original families during childhood. Instead, they are influenced by various environment, including schools and working places, which would all influence roles chosen in close relationships. If researchers can explore those factors and publish, influential factors of close relationships can be clearer. If they can be analyzed with family factors, such as parenting styles, it would be beneficial to development of social psychology and developmental psychology. This article aims to emphasize the importance of parenting style. Proper way in parenting style which means authoritative parenting style can not only lead to individuals’ healthy close relationship indirectly, but also including career paths and personality. It is expected for researcher to arouse the attention of academic field. What’s more, it is also expected to call on adults to pay more attention on parenting style. In other words, it is expected for parents to adopt more beneficial parenting style for development of individuals during parenting.

References
