

FERNANDO GARCIA
EDITOR

Parenting

*Cultural Influences
and Impact on Childhood Health
and Well-Being*

Focus on Civilizations and Cultures

NOVA

FOCUS ON CIVILIZATIONS AND CULTURES

PARENTING

CULTURAL INFLUENCES AND IMPACT
ON CHILDHOOD HEALTH
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INTRODUCTION

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ABSTRACT

[Parenting: Cultural Influences and Impact on Childhood Health and Well-Being]
Evidence from emergent research in South European and Latin American countries indicates that adolescents from indulgent families scored equal or even better than those from authoritative families in many key indicators of psychosocial adjustment, and that indulgent parenting appears as the optimum parenting style in these samples. In addition, recently research also sees that it is valid for many European countries include United Kingdom and Sweden, and Asian countries as Iran and Filipinas. This research suggests that authoritative parenting is not always associated with optimum developmental outcomes and those relationships between parenting styles and developmental outcomes also depend on the ethnic, cultural and cultural-variations context where the socialization process takes place. The contributors to the book analyzed emergent research where the indulgent parenting style is equal or even better than the authoritative parenting style. Explaining the hypothesis of cultural influences and analyzing the specific relationships between the traditional two-dimensional model of parental socialization and the parenting practices in Spain. Analyzing the parenting styles in Portugal, Brazil and Peru, and their relation to the adolescents' personal competence and internalization of values. Studying in Spain parental socialization styles between different generations and several adolescents' outcomes, as internalization of values, Human Rights, forgiveness, adolescents' scholar adjustment and violence (antisocial behaviour, bullying, child-to-parent violence, and teen dating violence). Analyzing evidence indicate that indulgent model is that work best in European countries for adolescents' personal competence, substance use and in personal disorders. The contributors to the book collectively clarify how indulgent families impact more positively on childhood health and well-being.

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Parenting: Cultural Influences and Impact on Childhood Health and Well-Being consists of 14 chapters. In the first chapter, María C. Fuentes has reviewed empirical evidence which currently debate the traditional assumption that the authoritative style is always the best parenting style. She highlights the importance of considering cultural influences when the relationships between parenting and its impact on health and well-being of children are analyzed. She focused main attention on emergent research in South European and Latin American countries where indulgent parenting (characterized by warmth but not strictness) appears as the optimum parenting style.

Continuing the discussion of cultural influences, Fernando García, Leonor Fernández-Doménech, Feliciano H. Veiga, Roser Bono, Emilia Serra and Gonzalo Musitu have analyzed the relations between parenting practices and styles with a sample of Spanish adolescents. The authors have found major discrepancies with results obtained with American Anglo-Saxon samples. Concretely, in Spain, psychological autonomy granting is unrelated to the behavioural control parenting practice, and in the opposite end of psychological control and rejection parental practices. This Spanish results shows that adolescents from indulgent families (characterized by warmth but not strictness) are strongly related to the psychological autonomy granting.

In the third chapter, with Brazilian samples, Isabel Martínez, Leoncio Camino, Cleonice Camino and Ignacio Madrid have reviewed and discussed the conceptualization of family socialization process. They analyze the influence of parenting styles into personal competence and internalization of values in Brazil. The results of reviewed showed that children raised by indulgent have equal or higher self-esteem score than adolescents from authoritative parents. The lowest self esteem was for adolescents raised by neglectful and authoritarian parents. In the case of internalization of values there is no difference between children from authoritative and indulgent homes in any of the five types of values analysed.

In the fourth chapter, but now with a Portuguese sample, Yara Rodrigues, María C. Fuentes and Feliciano H. Veiga analyze the influence of parenting styles into personal competence and internalization of values in Portugal. In this South European country, those authors found very similar results to Brasil.

In the fifth chapter, now with a Peruvian sample, Antoni Albertí, Sonia Gabaldón and Dolores Frías-Navarro, analyze the relation between parenting styles with adolescents' personal competence and internalization of values. The authors replicate the results of two previous studies (Brazil and Portugal) with this new sample of Peruvian adolescent.

In the sixth chapter researchers returned to Spain. Bárbara Lorence, M. Victoria Hidalgo and Susana Menéndez have explored the associations between parenting styles with internalizing and externalizing problems. Sample was of 445 adolescents, half of them of families at psychosocial risk. The authors conclude that indulgent style (based on affection and dialogue but not on parental coercion) was the most favorable pattern of parental socialization (for preventing externalizing problems) for at-risk and not-at-risk families.

In the next chapter, Pablo Queiroz, Cleonice Camino, Oscar García and Juan J. Zacarés analyze in Spain the relationship between parenting styles with offspring's psychological and psychosocial adjustment between different generations. In this chapter Spanish parenting is examined retrospectively founding that both the adolescent of indulgent homes and the elderly people of indulgent homes were associated with the best levels of self-concept and self-esteem. On the other hand, also in line with previous results in Brazil, Portugal and Peru,

the indulgent and authoritative styles exert best, but similar, effects in the internalization of values of their offspring.

Maite Garaigordobil, Vanesa Martínez and Aida Fernández start with the first chapter, the ninth of the book, which analyzes the connections between parenting styles with offspring's violence. As the authors claimed, violence is a social pathology that has always been a part of human experience. The study comprises an ample sample of 3,026 participants from the Basque Country (Spain), measure antisocial-delinquent behaviors, and behavioral disorders. The authors conclude that the authoritarian and neglectful styles were the most harmful regarding antisocial behavior. Conversely, the indulgent style (high acceptance-involvement and low coercion-imposition) was the most positive because participants who had indulgent parents displayed significantly lower levels of antisocial behavior.

María C. Fuentes, Isabel Martínez and Fidel Navarro analyze, in the ninth chapter, the relationships between Spanish parenting styles and adolescence bullying with a minor sample of 1,114 adolescents from middle-class backgrounds of a large metropolitan area. They measured in adolescents: antisocial behavior, disruptive or undisciplined behavior, academic indifference, perception of violence from teachers, academic self-esteem, family self-esteem and social self-esteem. Conclusion was that both indulgent and authoritative styles of socialization also act as prevention factors from bullying, and other behaviors related as school maladjustment and antisocial behavior.

In chapter number ten, Cristian Suárez-Relinque, Gonzalo del-Moral-Arroyo, Belén Martínez-Ferrer and Gonzalo Musitu, from a different perspective, analyze school and child-to-parent violence. The study comprises a large sample of 3,399 Spanish adolescents. The authors' conclusion was that, in the same line that previous chapters with large samples, the Indulgent style was found as the most functional parental socialization style, followed by the authoritative one.

The chapter eleven is the last where is analyzed the violence. Amapola Povedano, María-Carmen Monreal, Pepa Cuesta, María Muñiz, David Moreno and Gonzalo Musitu studied parenting styles and teen dating violence with a sample of 2,399 Spanish adolescents from 9 schools. Results indicated that indulgent parenting style, on the part of the father and mother, has the weakest relationship with teen dating violence. On the opposite hand, teenagers from families that apply authoritarian parenting styles are most likely to get involved in violent teen dating relationships, followed by the negligent style.

In the twelfth chapter, Amador Calafat, Montse Juan, Elisardo Becoña and Oscar García analyzed the most recent evidence on the protect or risk factor of the parenting styles on drug use in the European context. The study comprises a large sample of 7,718 European adolescents from Sweden, Slovenia, Czech Republic, UK, Spain, and Portugal. The authors conclude that indulgent families performs as well as the authoritative one on substance use (and personal disturbances), but the indulgent parenting style performs even better than for authoritative parenting style on self esteem and school performance, including in those conclusions two countries from Northern Europe (i.e., UK and Sweden).

In the thirteenth chapter, Júlio Rique and Thayanne Lima da Silva proposes an approach for explain as the parenting socialization for promoting forgiveness in childhood may contribute to foster adolescents' socio-moral competence. Authors studied as indulgent parental practices of induction, focusing on the consequences that the child's behavior have for others, attributing responsibility to the child, but without the use of an "moralizing" rule, indulgent parents may inducing other-oriented empathy and feelings of guilt.

Finally, in the fourteenth chapter, Rebecca H. Foster and Amanda M. Brouwer present a review of healthy families America. The authors proposed a home visiting program designed to promote positive parenting, enhance child health and development, and prevent child maltreatment. Positive parenting practices are key to promote child health and development.

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