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## **The Relationship between Perceived Parenting Style and sexual risk taking Behavior of Adolescents: In The Case of Fasilo grade 9<sup>th</sup> School Adolescents: A Means for Intervention, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia**

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### **Abstract**

*The main purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between perceived parenting style and sexual risk taking behavior of adolescents in case of Fasilo secondary school grade 9th students. Correlational research design was employed and 50 sample students were selected through simple random sampling technique. The required data was collected via adapted instruments from previously conducted researches by (Dornbusch, 1987), Buss and Perry, 1992), and Zang (2008) then the data was analyzed by using Pearson moment correlation coefficient, stepwise regression, independent sample t-test and one sample t- test. The result of the study revealed that correlation result was permissive and neglectful parenting styles have relationship with sexual risk taking behavior of students, the stepwise regression result was indicated that Permissive parenting styles was statistically significant to predict sexual risky behavior, the independent sample t-test there was no statistically significant difference between male and female students in their sexual risk taking behavior and one sample t-test result showed that the level of sexual risk taking behaviour is high among students of Fasilo grade 9th adolescents. It recommended university and school counselors should provide training for adolescents about the horrible effect of deviant behaviors, assist adolescents to have open discussion about sexual issues with parents, caregivers and teachers should be able to teach adolescents mechanisms of sexual risk taking behavioral skills.*

**Keywords:** parenting style, sexual risk taking behavior, adolescent, perceived

## 1. Background of the Study

Parenting style has been defined as the collection of attitudes, belief and practices preferred and utilized by caregivers to shape their child's behavior (Olivary, Tagliabue, and Confalonieri, 2013). It is also defined as a psychological construct represents the quality of time the parents spent with a child-child rearing (Rinaldi & Howe, 2012). According to (spera Christophe, 2005) parenting style is representation of how parents respond to and make demands on their children. Parenting style has four types namely. Authoritative parenting style Darling and Steinberg 1993 indicated that authoritative parents maintain a supportive parent- child relationship. Their adolescent is able to make decision through reason and not base them on majority opinion. In line this, Baumrind (as cited in Pellerin, 2005) stated that authoritative parenting style is high in both demandingness and responsiveness).

Authoritative parenting provides warmth love and acceptance for their children in order to educate them to become progressively more autonomous. Another important characteristic need to be highlighted verbal give and take between parents and children. Open communication and reciprocal dialogue can be found within this parenting (Dwairy and Menshar, 2005).

According to Bumurid, (as cited in Steinberg, 2004) authoritarian parenting style: In these types of parenting style, adolescents are expected to follow the strict rules established by the parents. Failure to follow such rules usually results in punishment authoritarian parents fail to explain the reasoning behind these rules. Authoritarian parent is restrictive, punitive style in which the parents exert the adolescent to follow direction and respect work and effort allow little verbal exchanges social in competence in behavior. Permissive parents are generally nurturing and communicative with their adolescents often taking on the status of a friend more than that of parents.

Permissive parenting often results in adolescents who rank low in happiness and self-regulation. These adolescents are more self-regulation. These adolescents are more likely to experience problems with authority and tend to perform poorly in school (Steinberg, 1999). Neglectful parenting style: Parents who are physically present but yet largely uninvolved in their children's lives, construct a gap in the parent- child relationship characterized by emotional isolation and as a result, children are placed at risk for internalizing feeling of rejection (Crosswhite and Kerpelman, 2009).

Parents and other family members are in a unique position to help socialize adolescents into healthy sexual adults, both by providing accurate information about sex and by fostering responsible sexual decision-making skills (Eisenberg, & Resnick, 2006; Fisher, 1989; Miller, Kotchick, Dorsey, Forehand & Ham, 1998; Miller, 1998). Furthermore, adolescents often cite their parents as their preferred source of education about sex, and organized prevention and education efforts continue to advocate active parental involvement in children's sexual socialization (Alexander, 1984; Bowler, Sheon, 1992; Santelli & Hirsch, 2007).

Parents and adolescents alike cited embarrassment as a major barrier to initiating or engaging in discussions about sexual topics and this will paved away for adolescents to involve in unsafe sexual activities (Pluhar et al. 2008). Adolescent premarital sexual activities are certainly becoming an issue of social and health concern (Falaye, 2004). This is mainly because sexually active adolescents engage in various practices that pose a risk to sexual health. An earlier age at the initiation of sexual activity has been associated with less frequent condom use, a greater number of sexual partners, and elevated rates of sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies (Barone *et al.*, 1996). Risky sexual behaviors such as inconsistent condom use and sexual intercourse with multiple partners are relatively common among adolescents and youth in Africa and this behavior increases the risk of unplanned pregnancies and the contraction of sexually transmitted diseases and

particularly HIV/AIDS. According to Phillips and Malcom (2006), the youth in sub-Saharan Africa are faced with change over from adolescence to adulthood shadowed by the growing HIV/ AIDS epidemic, which is sweeping through the African continent.

With the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ethiopia, it is important to understand the sexual behaviors that place youth at risk of HIV/AIDS, other STDs and unwanted pregnancies in order to develop and implement appropriate health-promoting interventions. Many factors influence the early onset of and increase in sexual activities of adolescents in developing countries. These include the increasing early age of sexual maturation, the lack of knowledge about sex, declining cultural and religion influences, urbanization and increasing numbers of early marriages (Falaye, 2004). According to Bhan & *et al.* (2004) sex education possibly helps in preparing young adolescents to have responsible attitudes and behaviors towards sex for a harmonious sexual life. Sex knowledge is the inculcation of a scientific attitude towards natural sexuality. It also dispels many myths and superstitions and clarifies the various aspects of sexuality (Bhan *et al.*, 2004). The negative consequences of sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned teen pregnancies on adolescents have been well documented (Jaccard, Dittus & Gordon, 1998). Identifying the determinants of STD/HIV-preventive behaviors in adolescents has become a public health priority (Sales *et al.*, 2008). One parental influence that has received a great deal of attention regarding its relationship to adolescent sexual risk-taking is parent-adolescent communication (Wilson & Dannenberg, 2004).

Concerning with the relationship between parenting style and adolescent's sexual risk taking behavior, previous research has indicated that sexual health problems like HIV/AIDS and unplanned or unwanted pregnancies are prevalent among African adolescents, and this warrants urgent attention (Lesch & Kruger, 2005; Phillips & Malcom, 2006; Shisana *et al.*, 2005). To improve the effectiveness of preventative programmes for adolescents, it is important that adolescents acquire adequate knowledge and well-informed perceptions about sexual aspects in which the parent-adolescent relationship and the family context play indispensable roles.

In Ethiopian Context, some related studies such as, relationship between parenting style resilience and emotional intelligence among adolescents by Goitseona Mathibe (June 2011), relationship between parenting style and self-esteem by Yenchiew (April 2011) were conducted. Therefore, due to limited empirical studies on parenting style and sexual risk taking behavior of adolescents in the Ethiopia in general and Bahir Dar city in particular, this study tried to examine the relationship between perceived parenting style and sexual risk taking behaviors of students with particular reference to Fasilo secondary school students and attempted to fill the identified gap.

## 1.2 Research Questions

Is there any significant relationship between perceived parenting style and adolescent's sexual risk taking behavior?

To what extent does parenting style predict adolescent's sexual risk taking behavior?

To what extent sexual risk taking behavior exhibits among Fasilo grade 9<sup>th</sup> students?

Is there any significant difference between female and male students with regard to their sexual risk behavior?

## 1.3 Objective of the Study

The following central points will be posed on this study.

To assess relationship between perceived parenting style and sexual risk taking behavior of adolescents

To identify which parenting style predicts adolescent's sexual risk taking behavior

To identify gender difference with regard to their sexual risk taking behavior.

## 2. Method

Correlational research design was employed because the study attempts to examine the relationship between perceived parenting style and adolescent's sexual risk taking behavior. The target populations of this study were grade 9<sup>th</sup> students who were registered in the academic year of 2018 / 2019 and attending their education in Fasilo secondary school. The total populations of study were 560. Among those 240 are male students and 260 are females. From the total population, 10 % of were taken. So, 56 students would be taken by using simple random sampling technique. This was done based on Sudman recommendation (as cited by Amsale, 2015) for research activities. Since three questionnaire papers were not returned and two of the distributed questionnaire were incomplete so that they were discarded from the analysis and the final data analysis were made on fifty complete questionnaire papers. The researcher would be use the standard questionnaires adapted from previous researches conducted by Dornbusch et al, (1987) Buss and Perry (1992), and (Zang, 2008). Likert scale items that used to measure perceived parenting style and the rest 20 items measure sexual risk taking behavior. The adapted items were arranged into 4 ranging from the scale 1-4 which denotes 1 for strongly disagree, 2 for disagree, 3 for agree and 4 for strongly agree. After adapting and contextualizing instruments into the Ethiopian context, the items were piloted on 30 grade 10<sup>th</sup> students from the same school for the seek of determining clarity of items, internal consistency and reliability. The reliability was found to be 0.72 for parenting style and 0.69 for sexual risk taking behavior respectively. After the data had been collected, checked, and coded, it was analyzed through Pearson correlation coefficient; independent sample t- test, step wise regression and one sample t- test were used.

## 3. Result

**Table 1: Demographical information of the respondent**

	Sex	
	Frequency	Percent
Female	28	56.0
Male	22	44.0
Total	50	100.0

As indicated on table, 1 males account 22(44%) and the remaining 28(56%) of respondents are females.

**Table 2: the model summary of the regression of Neglectful, Authoritative, Authoritarian, and Permissive on sexual risk taking behavior**

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted Square	RStd. Error of the Estimate
1	.447 <sup>a</sup>	.200	.183	9.63844

a. Predictors: (Constant), Neglectful, Authoritative, Authoritarian, Permissive

As indicated on the table, multiple correlation coefficients were  $R = .447$  and coefficient of determination  $R^2$  is .200. Multiple correlations show significant relationship between sexual risk taking behavior of adolescents and combination of independent variables of parenting. The regression analysis results indicated that the combined effect of Neglectful, Authoritative, Authoritarian, and Permissive on adolescent sexual risk taking behavior ( $R^2 = .200$ ).

The coefficient determination shows that 20% of the variance in sexual risk taking behavior was accounted by parenting style. The remaining 80% of variance in sexual risk taking behavior was explained by other factors.

**Table 3: the regression Analysis of Neglectful, Authoritative, Authoritarian, and Permissive parenting style on sexual risk taking behavior**

Variables	R square	B	Beta	T-test	Sig.
Authoritative	.200	-.004	-.003	-.023	.982
Authoritarian		.145	.078	.558	.580
Permissive		1.162	.397	2.826**	.007
Neglectful		.472	.173	1.142**	.025

a. Dependent Variable: sexual risk taking behavior  $p > 0.05$

b. Predictors: (Constant), Neglectful, Authoritative, Authoritarian, Permissive

The direct effect of the variables on sexual risk taking behavior was determined using beta coefficient. The effect of authoritative parenting style on sexual risk taking behavior of students was not statistically significant ( $B = -.003$ ,  $t = -.023$ ,  $p = .982$ ). Similarly, the effect of authoritarian parenting style on sexual risk taking behavior of students was not statistically significant ( $B = .078$ ,  $t = .558$ ,  $p = .580$ ). Neglectful parenting style on sexual risk taking behavior of students was statistically significant ( $B = .173$ ,  $t = 1.142$ ,  $p = .025$ ) and permissive parenting style on sexual risk taking behavior of students was found to be statistically significant ( $B = .397$ ,  $t = 2.826$ ,  $p = .007$ ). Thus, neglectful and Permissive parenting styles are predictors of sexual risk taking behavior of adolescents.

**Table 4: ANOVA SUMMARY**

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1113.302	1	1113.302	11.984	.001 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	4459.178	48	92.900		
	Total	5572.480	49			

a. Dependent Variable: sexual risk taking behavior

b. Predictors: (Constant), Permissive

The ANOVA result on table 4 indicated that Permissive parenting styles is statistically significant to predict sexual risk taking behavior ( $F = 11.984$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ).

**Table 5: Independent sample t-test on gender difference with regard to their sexual risk taking behavior (N= 50)**

Variables	Groups	N	M	SD	df	T	Sig.
Sex	Male	22	44.1364	10.10127	48	-.382	.704
	Female	28	42.8643	11.54822			

\* $p > .05$  M = Mean SD = Standard Deviation DF = Degree of Freedom

As it is displayed on table 5 statistical analysis revealed that there was no statistically significant difference between male and female students in their sexual risk taking behavior ( $t = -.382$ ,  $df = 48$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ). The descriptive statistics were also computed to find out the differences of sexual risk taking behavior in line with sex. As the table (above) males had the mean of 44.1364 with standard deviation of 10.10127 and the mean of female students was 42.8643 with standard deviation of 11.54822. This implies that there was no as such significant difference between male and female adolescents with regard to their sexual risk taking behaviour.

**Table 6: The extent of sexual risk taking behaviours of adolescents**

Variable	N	M	SD	$\mu$	df	t-calculated	t-observed	Sig.
Sexual risk taking behavior	50	3.397	.432	2.5	49	3.123	1.987	.000

$P < 0.05$ ;  $\mu$  = expected mean; SD = standard deviation, M = sample mean

As shown in table, the calculated t-value, i.e. 3.397 is greater than the critical t-value of (1.987) at 0.05 alpha level. This shows that there is significance difference between the observed sample mean (3.397) and the expected mean (2.5) of students' response to the sexual risk taking behaviour scale. Thus indicated that the level of engagement in sexual activities in the sample school is high among students of Fasilo grade 9<sup>th</sup> adolescents.

#### 4. Discussion

This section attempts to present the discussion of the data presented in the line with review literature to discuss the relationships found among parenting styles, gender, relationship status and adolescent sexual risk taking behavior.

##### 4.1 Relationship between perceived parenting style and adolescents sexual risk taking behavior

The finding of this study portrayed that different result of the investigation that had been presented earlier indicated that adolescents were found to be difference in their sexual risk taking behavior as the result of parenting style. Authoritarian parenting style:-the finding of this study revealed that there is no relationship between authoritarian parenting style and adolescent's sexual risk taking behavior ( $r = .145$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ). In contrast to this finding, the finding obtained by Vasta, et al, (1999) authoritarian parents may be causally related to the development of sexual risk taking among adolescents. Custodian parents of children have been found to involve in deviant behaviors. Furthermore, he noted that, Adolescents who were raised by the authoritarian parents exhibit irritation, withdrawal and rebellious behaviors against parents and become highly aggressive. In support of this view, Kandel (1992) and Hwang et al (2002) also indicated that physical punishment has the major causal relationship with adolescent sexual behavior as revenge. Authoritative parenting style:- the finding of this study revealed students there is no relationship between authoritative parenting style and adolescent sexual risk taking behavior ( $r = -.023$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ).

Similar finding by Steinberg and Darling (1993) indicate that adolescents reared by authoritative parents show the most favorable outcomes. According to Maccoby and Martin (1993) adolescents who are from authoritative parenting have the ability to control their own sexual derives and analyzes the consequences. In line with this view Patterson (cited in Shaffer, 1994) argues that parents who express approval and affection with adolescents protect their adolescents from involvement of deviant behaviors.

**Permissive parenting style:** There is relationship between permissive parenting style and adolescents sexual risk taking behavior( $r=.447^{**}$ ,  $P<.05$ ). This similar to this the finding Baumrind (cited in Hwang, et al, 2002) reveals that permissive parenting style results in more adolescent early sexual behaviors than authoritative parents. Children coming from home with permissive parents are more likely to display engage in behavior than children coming from homes with extremely strict and punitive parents. Similar to this, there is there is significant relationship between neglectful parenting style and adolescents sexual risk taking behavior( $r=.324^{*}$ ,  $p<.05$  and this finding is similar with previously findings of Synyder and Sickmund, (cited in Patten, 2000).

#### 4.2 Predictors of parenting style on sexual risk taking behavior

Adolescents from authoritarian ( $B=.078$ ,  $t=.558$ ,  $p=.580$ ), authoritative ( $B= -.003$ ,  $t= -.023$ ,  $P=.982$ ) and neglectful ( $B=.173$ ,  $t=1.142$ ,  $P=.259$ ) parenting style were not predictors of sexual risk taking behavior of adolescents. On the other hand permissive parenting style is the predictor of adolescent's sexual risk taking behavior ( $B=.397$ ,  $t= 2.826$ ,  $P=.007$ ). Similar to this the finding obtained by (Dornbusch, 1997) showed that both permissive and neglectful parents 'predictors of sexual risk taking behavior of school adolescents.

#### 4.3 The level of adolescent sexual risk taking behavior

With regard to this, the current study revealed that, sexual risk taking behavior is high among students of the study area at ( $t=3.397$   $P<.05$ ). This is because, calculated t-value, i.e. 3.123 than the critical t-value of (1.987) at 0.05 alpha level. In line to this, there is significance difference between the observed sample mean (4.348) and the expected mean (2.5). Similarly, Patterson (as cited in Shaffer, 1994) the engagement of adolescents in sexual risk taking behavior become increase from time to time.

#### 4.4 Gender difference on adolescent sexual risk taking behavior

The finding of this study indicated that there was no statistically significant difference between male and female adolescents in sexual risk taking behavior ( $t=-.382$ ,  $p>.05$ ). In contrast to this result, other researchers obtained that sexual behavioral pattern of adolescent boys and girls seem to vary in different ways. According to Craing (2000), past research on sexual risk behavior boys had greater involvement than female counter parts.

### 5. Conclusion

Based on the findings and the analysis made, the following conclusions are drawn:

There is positive relationship between perceived parenting style (permissive and neglectful) on adolescent aggressive behavior.

There is no relationship between perceived parenting style authoritative and authoritarian on adolescent sexual risk taking behavior.

Permissive and neglectful parenting styles are predictor of adolescent's sexual risk taking behavior.

There is no a significant difference between male and female regarding with their sexual risk taking behavior

There is high adolescent sexual behavior in Fasilo secondary school.

### 6. Recommendations

Based on the conclusion made from the finding the following recommendations are given:

- The school counselor should provide awareness about the problem of sexual risky behaviors adolescents in general and students in particular.

- It is essential to design school, parent, and community-based intervention programs to reduce adolescent sexual risky by different bodies (teachers, counselors, and other relevant professionals who can deal with the problem).
- The school administrators should facilitate cooperative involvement and communication among parents, schools, adolescents, youth association, and other concerned bodies to reduce adolescent deviant behavior of adolescents.
- Social media and school communities Provide education for parents or guardians on such issues as parental affection, warmth, rational explanation, approval and negotiation that can effectively control adolescent risky sexual behavior.
- Universities should provide training for adolescents to be empathetic and sensitive that may help adolescents to control their own sexual drives and help adolescents recognize the negative consequence of their risky sexual behavior inclination for themselves and upon others.

### **Declaration**

The authors declare that this paper is original work and there is no any competing interest.

### **Authors' Contribution**

Mezgebu Bayu made the draft of proposal, acquisition and analysis of data as well as worked on the interpretation. Tewodross Demissie involved in designing and writing the methodology section, discussion of results and revising the whole manuscript. Both the authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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