

**STYLES OF PARENTAL TREATMENT AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALTRUISTIC BEHAVIOR AMONG SAMPLE OF CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AT NAJRAN SCHOOLS**

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**ABSTRACT** *The study aimed to identify the nature of the relationship between parental treatment styles, as children of learning disabilities understand and their altruistic behavior at the age of nine to twelve. It also aimed to identify the impact of age variable and the predictability of those children's altruistic behavior level among other variables of parental styles. Furthermore, it aimed to develop a scale for altruistic behavior. The study assumed that there were relationships among the previously mentioned variables and attempted to ascertain this belief by the use of the altruistic scale, parental treatment scale and Jodanv-harris drawing scale. Findings asserted the study's assumptions. However, findings related to the third assumption showed that democratic father and tolerant mother had a big impact on the acquisition of children with learning disabilities altruistic behavior varied levels more than other styles of parental treatment.*

**KEY WORDS:** Learning disabilities, Altruism, Parental treatment styles, positive behavior

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Childhood is seen as one of the most important life stages that has a great impact on the human's life. In other words, parental treatment styles and socialization are very important in the lives of children in general, and the children with learning disabilities, in particular as they equip them with many positive as well as negative behaviors, but here we talk about the positive one. Ateyah, (1984) points out that the styles of parental treatment that develop social motives for balanced growth within children are those styles by which children feel to some extent of their independence, acceptance, and treatment. They are democratic, consistent with parents and free from emotional ways, especially those styles whose source is authority and its symbols, which urge them to be involved with others. The family has an important and effective role in enabling the child to acquire his first experience, build his personality in the future, and has self-esteem as roots of the matures' psychological problems go back to their early years (Iamail, 1989: 144).

Altruism is one of the noble styles of the social positive behavior because it represents the pure charitable behavior that is stemmed from within the individual. This behavior is voluntary and the individual may sacrifice his personal benefits for the happiness of others (Bar- tal, 1976). Abed Al- Rahman, believes that altruism represents one image of the social positive behavior on which parents should encourage their children at early ages and teachers should implant it in their students. All should do so because such a behavior is very important in building the good character and strengthening love ties among members of the society. On the opposite, selfishness is not a favored trait because it causes

others to dislike and reject the person. Selflessness, on the other hand, means preference of others to one's self in good. It is a behavior that causes the individual to ennoble. Lee and Fong, (1994) claim that the mother's socio- economic level was an important indicator for the child's sympathy. The Chinese and Malaysian mothers' styles of education were related to the level of the child's sympathy. Thus, education style which based on strict regulations was negatively related to the child's level of sympathy.

Fuji, (1982) pointed out that children with social and semi social traits in addition to pleasure showed more frequent altruistic behaviors than other children. Nevertheless, this impact was clearly seen in the results related to females when altruistic behavior of children was examined according to its relationship with mental and social capabilities. The study found out that there was a main significant impact for both of gender and social traits as shown by the results of children who got high grades in mental capability.

### **Study problem and questions**

The problem of the study lies in studying the relationship of parental treatment styles to it various variables, on one hand and to the levels of children's altruistic behaviors who suffer from learning disabilities, on the other hand. Psychology literature indicates that children who live in a normal family atmosphere are more likely to altruism, tender, support, and assistance of others who need these things even they do not ask for. Children who live in unnatural family atmosphere are more likely to selfishness and the desire to take without giving. The study also tries to identify the main traits that can predict the altruistic behavior of children with learning abilities. Furthermore, it studies the extent of altruistic behavior's impact of learning disabilities children along with their chronological age. Parents and researcher adopt an important assumption that the "self concept and intelligence are factors for academic success and parents treatment styles. Children who have high percentages of intelligence, a positive sense towards themselves, and trust their capabilities to establish good relations with their mates are more successful in the academic aspects than their mates, Kershner, (1995). In conclusion, the study tries to answer these questions:

1. To what extent do the styles of parental treatment, as perceived by children with learning disabilities, relate to children's altruistic behavior?
2. Are there any differences in the levels of the altruistic behaviors of the children with learning disabilities due to age?
3. Can some variables of parental treatment styles, as perceived by children with learning disabilities, predict the levels of their altruistic behaviors?

### **Aims of the study**

1. Identify the nature of the relationship between parental treatment styles as perceived by children with learning disabilities and the level of their altruistic behavior.
2. Identify the impact of age on the altruistic behavior of children with learning disabilities.
3. Identify the predictability of the altruistic behavior of children with learning disabilities among other variables of parental treatment styles.

4. Prepare a scale for altruistic behavior with its all dimensions for children with learning disabilities.
5. Present some recommendations with regard to later studies and propose educational applications regarding the results of the presents study.

### **Importance of the study**

The present study is important because it searches positive psychology through the study of the relationship between styles of parental treatment and altruistic behavior in order to strengthen this positive behavior, which we desperately need nowadays. In addition, it is important as it addresses one category of people of special needs, i.e. children with learning disabilities.

### **Terms of the study**

- **Styles of parental treatment:** Kafafi, (1999) pointed out that the styles of parental treatment is determined by the relations and practices individuals apply inside the family. In addition to the characteristics of these relations such as normal styles in dealing with the individual according to his human traits opposite to abnormal styles when dealing with the individual as a thing or tool to satisfy certain objectives. This exactly what is called humanization in opposite to non-humanization. Coleman, (1980) defines parental treatment styles as” the style used by parents when educating their children and controlling their behavior. This style in education is divided into three types, democratic, dictatorial, and chaotic. The style parents usually follow depends on various factors such as the family form, size, in addition to its social, economic, and cultural level. Operationally the researcher of the present study will adopt a definition of these treatment styles that style parents use when educating their children and controlling their behavior according to the degree the child gets on the parental treatment styles scale.
- **The concept of altruistic behavior:** altruism as a concept appeared in the encyclopedia of psychology, psychoanalysis that means that the person favors the benefit of another person on his own. Another type of altruism is the social one, which means the favor of group benefits on the individual ones, AL- Hafni, (1978). Altruism was also mentioned in the psychology dictionary in the same meaning. Therefore, the operational demolition that is adopted in the present study is that behavior by which the individual makes a voluntary and deliberate effort to reduce the suffering of others and to achieve benefits for them without an intention to receive anything for that.
- **Learning disabilities:** Hallahan and Kauffman (2003) mention that the concept of learning disabilities according to the American National Joint Committee is a general one that refers to a heterogeneous group of disorders that appear in a form of significant difficulties in acquiring and using the ability to listen, speak, read, write, and think, or the mathematical ability which means the ability to make different calculations. These disorders are intrinsic for the individual and are assumed to happen to him because of a difference in the functionality of the central nervous system. They also happen at any time during his life span. Some problems may happen in the behaviors indicating the self- regulation, group

conception, and social interaction in addition to learning disabilities. However, these troubles do not represent in themselves learning difficulties or disabilities. Therefore, the operational definition of the learning disabilities concept is a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in the understanding or using the spoken or written language. It might be appear in the form of an incomplete ability to listen, think, read, write, dictate, or accomplish mathematical calculations.

## **THE STUDY METHODOLOGY**

Since the present study is based on the description of the relationship between parental treatment and altruistic behavior of children with learning disabilities, the researcher used the descriptive method in its known limitations beginning from study identification, wording of assumptions, sample testing, determination of study instruments, ending with the application on participants and data collection.

### **The study sample**

The study focused on studying the children with learning disabilities who were between (9- 12) years old in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. All of them were homogenous in accordance to intelligence, chronological age, and the social and economic levels.

### **Statistical analysis**

Correlation coefficient, reliability correlation, means, standard deviations, T. test, multiple regression analysis, and Scheffe test for the difference between the means, were all calculated.

### **Study hypotheses**

1. There is a statistically significant relationship between the styles of parental treatment as perceived by children with learning disabilities and their level of altruistic behavior.
2. There are statistically significant differences among the mean scores of children with learning disabilities due to age on altruistic behavior scale.
3. Variables of parental treatment styles only can predict the levels of altruistic behavior of the children with learning disabilities.

### **Study instruments**

#### **Sample control instruments**

- Checklist of general information prepared by the RESEARCHER
- Intelligence Test (IQ).

## Study main instruments

### A. Altruistic behavior scale prepared by the RESEARCHER:

The scale consisted of four main domains namely, full altruistic behavior, partial altruistic behavior, sympathy, and selfishness. It involved family aspect, mates at school aspect, mates outside school aspect, and a general aspect. Reliability of the scale was verified through a set of common statistical programs known as SPSS/ PC using these ways:

- Alpha- Cronbach used for the scale consistency.
- Reliability coefficient for the scale was (0.7101) which means that it was significant ( $\alpha= 0.01$ ).
- Equal halves reliability test was used and revealed a high coefficient (0.81).
- Test and re- test reliability where the coefficient was high (0.90) and ascertains the scale' reliability.
- Internal consistency where the researcher calculated the correlation coefficient between the degree of each situation and the degree of the dimension to which it belongs.

### B. Scales of parental treatment styles ad perceived by children

They prepared by Mohamed Al- Noubi, (2004). The researcher used this scale because it involves certain dimensions that are suitable for the nature of the present study, in addition to the identification of the nature of the relationship between altruistic behavior and the parental treatment styles through the dimensions that lead to its acquisition. These dimensions, in the present study were acceptance / rejection, care, neglect, tolerance, cruelty, equality, discrimination, democratic / authoritarian. One more reason for the use of this scale is its suitability for children who are (9- 12) years old.

- The scale's internal consistency was calculated. Correlation coefficients for the degree of each item and the degree of the dimension it belongs to were ranging between (0.33- 0.82) for the father's image and (0.34- 0.89) for mother's image.
- The validity of the test was measured through three ways namely, content validity, apparent or arbitrators' validity which ranged from (90 - 100 %), and experimental concurrent criterion validity which ranged from (-0.44) - (-0.88).

## STUDY RESULTS

**Results related to the first hypothesis:** "There is a statistically significant relationship between parental treatment styles as perceived by children with learning disabilities and their altruistic behavior".

The above main hypothesis can be rewritten into these sub- hypotheses:

1. There is a positive correlation between the styles of parental treatment categorized by acceptance/ rejection for father/ mother' image and the altruistic behavior of children with learning disabilities.

2. There is a positive correlation between the styles of parental treatment categorized by care/ neglect for father/ mother' image and the altruistic behavior of children with learning disabilities.
3. There is a positive correlation between the styles of parental treatment categorized by tolerance/ cruelty for father/ mother' image and the altruistic behavior of children with learning disabilities.
4. There is a positive correlation between the styles of parental treatment categorized by equality/ discrimination for father/ mother' image and the altruistic behavior of children with learning disabilities.
5. There is a positive correlation between the styles of parental treatment categorized by democracy- authoritarian for father and mother' image and the altruistic behavior of children with learning disabilities.

To validate these hypotheses, Pearson simple coefficient correlation between participants' crude grades on a scale of altruistic behavior and a scale of parental treatment styles was calculated. The results were as shown in the following table.

**Table1: Correlation coefficients between parental treatment styles and the levels of altruistic behavior of children with learning disabilities (N=115).**

Parental treatment	Altruism	Full altruistic behavior	Partial altruistic behavior	Sympathy	Selfishness
Acceptance- father's image		0.157	0.116	0.119	0.163
Rejection- mother's image		0.0445**	0.415**	0.311**	0.261**
Care- father's image		0.154	0.164	0.181	0.121
Neglect- mother's image		0.870**	0.812**	0.712**	0.441**
Tolerance- father's image		0.678**	0.601**	0.412**	0.321**
Cruelty-mother's image		0.721**	0.698**	0.554**	0.371**
Equality- father's image		0.698**	0.514**	0.414**	0.334**
Discrimination- mother's image		0.561**	0.716**	0.614**	0.334**
Democracy- father's image		0.664**	0.651**	0.422**	0.312**
Authoritarian- mother's image		0.716**	0.665**	0.461**	0.361**
Correlation= 0.254 ( $\alpha= 0.01$ )		correlation is significant ( $\alpha= 0.05$ ) **			
Correlation= 0.194 ( $\alpha= 0.05$ )		correlation is significant ( $\alpha= 0.01$ ) **			

**The above table shows that:**

1. There is a positive correlation, ( $\alpha= 0.01$ ) between the styles of parental treatment categorized by acceptance/ rejection in the mother's treatment of children with learning disabilities and all dimension of altruistic behavior. There is no correlation between parental treatment styles.
2. There is a statistically significant positive correlation, ( $\alpha= 0.01$ ) between the styles of parental treatment characterized by care/ neglect in the mother's treatment of children with learning disabilities and all dimension of altruistic behavior.

3. There is a statistically significant positive correlation, ( $\alpha= 0.01$ ) between the styles of parental treatment characterized by tolerance/ cruelty in the father and mother's treatment of children with learning disabilities and all dimension of altruistic behavior.

4. There is a statistically significant positive correlation, ( $\alpha= 0.01$ ) between the styles of parental treatment characterized by equality/ discrimination in the father and mother's treatment of children with learning disabilities and all dimension of altruistic behavior.

5. There is a statistically significant positive correlation, ( $\alpha= 0.01$ ) between the styles of parental treatment characterized by democracy/ authoritarian in the father and mother's treatment of children with learning disabilities and all dimension of altruistic behavior.

**Results related to the second hypothesis**, "There are statistically significant differences among the mean scores of children with learning disabilities due to age on altruistic behavior scale". To validate this hypothesis, factorial multi ANOVA was used to identify the impact of the interaction of chronological, (9, 10, 11) years on the altruistic behavior levels. Results are presented in the following table.

**Table 2: F. Ratio for the differences in the altruistic behavior levels in light of the chronological age of children**

Dimensions of the scale	Source of variation	Sum of squares	D.F.	Mean of squares	F. Ratio	Sig.
<b>Full altruistic behavior</b>	Between groups	99.727	2	49.863		
	Within groups	2323.67	297	7.824	6.373	0.01
	Total	2423.397	299	-		
<b>Partial altruistic behavior</b>	Between groups	82.887	2	41.443		
	Within groups	3886.030	297	13.048	3.167	0.05
	Total	3968.970	299	-		
<b>Sympathy</b>	Between groups	245.207	2	122.603		
	Within groups	8474.990	297	28.535	4.297	0.05
	Total	8720.197	299	-		
<b>Selfishness</b>	Between groups	7.447	2	3.723		
	Within groups	2258.350	297	7.604	4.090	Not sig.
	Total	2265.797	299	-		

The above table reveals that F. ratio for the differences in the altruistic levels in light of children's age variable is significant ( $\alpha= 0.01$  and  $0.05$ ) except the selfishness level where F. ratio was not significant. This, in turn indicates that there are difference in the levels of altruistic behavior due to age variable.

To understand the direction of these differences, Scheffe test was used. Results are illustrated in the table below.

**Table 3: Results of Scheffe test for the difference between children age groups**

Dimensions	Groups	Means	(9) years	(10) years	(11) years	Sig.
<b>Full altruistic behavior</b>	(9) years	24.05	-	1.17	1.27	0.05
	(10) years	25.22	-	-	0.10	0.05
	(11) years	24.86	-	-	-	-
<b>Partial Altruistic behavior</b>	(9) years	30.04	-	0.01	1.85	0.05
	(10) years	30.05	-	-	1.11	0.05
	(11) years	31.16	-	-	-	-
<b>Sympathy</b>	(9) years	43.50	-	0.20	2.01	-
	(10) years	43.70	-	-	1.81	0.05
	(11) years	45.51	-	-	-	-
<b>Selfishness</b>	(9) years	17.72	-	0.28	0.37	0.05
	(10) years	18.00	-	-	-	-
	(11) years	38.52	-	-	0.90	No Sig.

The above table shows that:

1. There are differences between (9 years) groups and (10 years) group in favor of the higher mean, which is the later regarding children's altruistic behavior levels, full, partial, and sympathy.
2. There are differences between (10 years) group and (11 years) group in favor of the higher mean which is in this case (11 years) group regarding children's altruistic behavior levels, full, partial, and sympathy.
3. There are differences between (9 years) group and (11 years) group for the benefit of the higher mean, which is the second group regarding children's altruistic behavior levels, full, partial, and sympathy.

**Results related to the third hypothesis,** Variables of parental treatment styles only can predict the levels of altruistic behavior of the children with learning disabilities. To prove this hypothesis and to identify the most effective variables in parental treatment styles on the levels of children's altruistic behavior, multiple regression was used as family variable were independent and altruistic behavior styles were independent. Results of these calculations appear in the table below.

**Table 4: F. ratio for the predictability of altruistic behavior through parental treatment styles**

Source of variation	Sum of squares	D.F.	Mean of squares	F. ratio	Sig.
<b>Regression</b>	117.869	1	117.869	4.083	0.05
<b>Remainders</b>	8602.327	298	28.876		
<b>Total</b>	8720.179	299			

The above table shows that F. ratio is statistically significant ( $\alpha= 0.05$ ) which proves the predictability of altruistic behavior towards other variables. In other words, there is a relationship between the styles of parental treatment and the level of altruistic behavior.



To determine the results of the most contributing factors to the predictability of altruistic behavior, have a look at the following table.

**Table 5: Regression of the parental treatment styles in the levels of altruistic behavior**

Source of variation	Simple correlation	multiple correlation	percentage of contribution
1	0.120	0.14	0.140

**Table 6: Multiple regression of the highest variables of parental treatment styles which predicts the levels of altruistic behavior (N=115)**

Type	dimension	Simple correlation	Multiple correlation	Regression weights	contribution percentage	F. ratio	Sig.
Norma l childre n	democracy/ father's image	0.116	0.014	0.268	1.40	2.02 1	0.0 5
	tolerance/ mother's image	0.114	0.012	0.254	1.20	2.18	0.0 5

From the above table, it can be concluded that:

- a) With regard to the father's image, the democratic style of parental treatment predicts the levels of altruistic behavior of children with learning disabilities more than other variables.
- b) With regard to the mother's image, the tolerant style of parental treatment predicts the levels of altruistic behavior of children with learning disabilities more than other variables.

## DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS

The results of the present study are in consistent with what Bar-tal, (1976: 17) concluded. He mentioned that theories of learning explain the altruistic behavior by the same principles used in the explanation of any behavioral phenomena. Designers of learning theories tend to explain behavior in general and altruistic behavior in particular as a function of the environmental and situational conditions, if learning appropriate conditions and circumstances are available.

The previous mentioned results of the present study are also in agreement with the results Bar-tal, (1982: 202) found out. Both of the studies asserted the fact that the motive for the altruistic behavior and the positive social behavior changes with time. Despite the fact that young children tend to help as a response to matures' orders or an anticipation of a direct benefit in return, older children offer help because of standard demands or self moral belief. This is exactly what has been emphasized by Peterson 1, (1988: 831) that

child's altruism increases as he grows up as a result of an increase in his capability to decentralization. She (Peterson) thinks that the child before the age of seven is more centralized around himself as he takes into consideration his point of view and his own desires. However, in the time between (7) to (12) years he becomes capable to account for others demands and wishes in addition to mutual relationships and points of view. Children, as they grow up become less selfishness and more capable of taking wise mature decisions and opinions. That is, an increase in the chronological age of an individual is related to a decline in selfishness and the appearance of moral and ethical maturation. This, in turn leads to the repetition of his altruistic behavior. The findings of the present study once again meet with what Lee, (1994) and Ujlie, (1982) revealed.

## CONCLUSION

The researcher of the present study and in light of what has been mentioned before stress the importance of the styles of parental treatment in the children's acquisition, between the ages of (9) to (12) of the full altruistic and partial (participation) altruistic behaviors. If the parental treatment style is dominated by care, tolerance, equality, and democracy, the child will then be able to acquire and learn the full and partial altruistic behaviors and sympathy. On the contrary, if the parental treatment style is not normal and dominated by rejection, neglect, discrimination, and authoritarian, the child will then be hindered to acquire and learn the altruistic behavior of all levels. Furthermore, the democratic father and tolerant mother have a great impact in the acquisition and learning of the altruistic behavior of all levels by their children with learning disabilities.

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY

- 1.The need to raise parents' awareness of the importance of mentoring programs that help family members to follow the ways of good interaction among them, and how to avoid abnormal operations and solve family problems that it may be exposed to.
- 2.The need to provide mentoring programs to increase democracy of fathers and tolerance of the children's mothers.
- 3.The need to provide mentoring programs to increase parents' awareness of the late childhood, its importance and the most remarkable characteristics and features that distinguish this stage, in addition to how to deal with these children to go through this stage peacefully and grow in the right direction.
- 4.The necessity fo mass media and special program to pay attention to the family and its atmosphere, in addition to childhood and its importance. This should be done for the sake of increasing parents' awareness of the importance of relationships between them on one hand, and between parents and their children on the other hand. They should also identify the importance of these relationships and their impact on the psychological and social consistency of their children to acquire the altruistic behavior we desperately need these days.

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