



ABSTRACT

NAME OF INSTITUTION: De La Salle University-Dasmariñas
ADDRESS: Dasmariñas, Cavite
TITLE: Parenting Style and Its Influence on the Child Rearing Difficulties and Coping Behavior of Selected Single Fathers

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OBJECTIVES:

A. GENERAL:

To know the parenting style of single fathers and its influence on child rearing difficulties and coping behavior of single fathers

B. SPECIFIC:

1. To know the parenting style of the single fathers
2. To find out the child rearing difficulties of the single fathers
3. To identify the coping behavior utilized by the single fathers
4. To know the influence of parenting style on the childrearing difficulties and coping behavior of the single fathers



SCOPE AND COVERAGE:

The study focused on the parenting style and its influence on the child rearing difficulties and coping behavior of selected single fathers. Respondents were ages 35-50 years old and had full custody of their children. The ages of the children of the respondents were from 2 to 16 years old and children were from 2 to 4 only.

METHODOLOGY:

The descriptive design was used in this study. This type involves analysis and evaluation with the purpose of describing the parenting style and its influence on the child rearing difficulties and coping behavior of selected single fathers through case study method. The researchers used the snowball method in which the selected single father was chosen to be the respondents. One subject gives the researcher the name of another subject, who in turn provides the name of a third; and so on. The number of subjects was limited to nine. The research instrument used was a self-made interview guide questionnaire and a parenting style test. The self-made interview guide questionnaires included open-ended questions about difficulties encountered by single fathers in rearing their children and the coping behavior they utilized. The modified parenting style test instrument was adapted from an internet article on active parenting. The test consisted of 30 items with 3 divisions: 10 for democratic questions, 10 for permissive and 10 for authoritarian questions. The researchers modified the test then the psychometrician validated it.



MAJOR FINDINGS:

1. Based on the results of the interview there were nine respondents whose ages were from 35 to 45 years old. There were five separated single fathers with ages 35 to 41 years old and four were widower with ages 40 to 45. All of the respondents were custodial single fathers, which means that they were the ones who reared their own children.
2. Most of the parenting styles used by the single fathers was Democratic Parenting Style. There were 5 single fathers who used democratic style of parenting. Two out of the 9 respondents used Permissive Style. The last two respondents used Authoritarian Style.
3. Most of the child-rearing difficulties of single fathers were children in going home during late at night, discipline, sibling rivalry (jealousy) and physical and health problems.
4. Most of the respondents used reward and punishment as their coping behavior like making limitations, “grounding”, and hurting like spanking.
5. Parenting style has influenced the child rearing difficulties and coping behavior of single fathers.



CONCLUSIONS:

Based on the gathered data and information, the researchers concluded the following:

1. Most of the respondents (single father) used Democratic Parenting Style.
2. Most of the difficulties encountered by a single father in rearing his children were on giving discipline especially to stubborn child.
3. To cope they used punishment like corporal punishment wherein they hurt their children and enforced some limitations and ground rules.
4. Parenting style influenced the child rearing difficulties and coping behavior of the single fathers.
5. Being a single father is very hard especially in rearing the children because there is only one parent who will do the responsibilities of the father and that of the mother in nurturing children.

It is important to have a family with a mother, a father and children, with love, happiness, unity and respect for each other.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

For single fathers, in order for them to overcome problems with their children, they can read magazines, books, articles about being single parenting or coping with the child-rearing problems, join single fathers club or organization. They can also watch tv programs or movies about child rearing to be a better single father. From there, single fathers can gain some knowledge about parenting style and the



coping behavior that they can use in solving their problems. Single fathers should know which parenting style is best in rearing their children.

For institutions, they should build organizations for single fathers, an organization in which single fathers can relate their experiences, get involved with some activities that would help them in solving their problems in life and can gain some knowledge from co-single fathers.

For Counselors, they should develop their way of serving as agents in changing perceptions of people towards single fathers. They should increase their understanding of single fathers, and they should enhance their partnership with single fathers and children of single parent families.

For future researchers who want to continue this study they must include as respondents children of single parent families, relatives of single parent and other variable such as difficulties of being single fathers and how they cope with their being single.