Research Proposal

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The relationship between parents and children is unique as well as important to shape a positive pattern of society. The way people behave and react in different circumstances highly depends on the parenting and discipline towards children. Through discipline, parents observe the behavior and activities of their child to make them more positive and healthy in terms of both physical and psychological aspects. The main purpose of this paper is to understand the impact of discipline in the life of children and its link with their activities. It is crucial because the lack of discipline affects the psychological behavior of juveniles that can result into the involvement of criminal activities.

The lifestyle of the people and family structure has been changed as compared to the people living in the 1950s. At that time, parents were the main members of the families where they had to obey the decisions. Father played role of head of the family and role model for their parents while mother used to look after their diet pattern, studies, behavior, and various other activities. The most important thing that can be observed in the discipline toward children in the 1950s was that parents never showed the soft side even though they loved their children the most. It means they provided them good food, studies, playing stuff but in return expected them to behave in a certain manner. Parents were the ones who decided what their children should do and how. There was no question on the decision of parents as the mindset of our society was made in such a manner that everyone believed that parents would make the best decision for their children.

If we observe the contemporary discipline toward children it can be observed that it is almost different from the 1950s. Parents are not the main member of the families anymore. Yes, they do guide their children what to do and what to not but if the children will follow these decisions or not is totally up to them. At a certain age, parents can make their children obey their decision but after that parents play the role of advisor more than the one who commands. It cannot be said that this discipline toward children is wrong as today's parents are able to understand the point of view and mindset of their children more than the parents in the 1950s who were supposed to give the final decision. However, one thing which is disturbing is the discipline that can be affected by the children's point of view as they are not able to make efficient decisions most of the time. The strategy of the 1950s parents was to protect their children from uncertainties while parents today welcomes the mistakes and believe that these experiences will make their children more wise and sensible.

In 1950s children were like the satellites revolving around the orbit (parents). They were given a specific social circle as a limitation where they were supposed to live their life. Married women are more able to keep their eyes on children activities, actions, thoughts, and emotions than the single parents (teen women). This pattern of discipline made children of that time more responsible and productive which ultimately resulted in positive change in the social, political and economic aspects of the society. However, in contemporary time this discipline toward children is totally changed. Children are the orbit while parents revolve around them as satellites. This enables parents to make more understanding and productive communication with their children so that children can share their problems and thoughts with their parents. This communication also enables parents to provide the best parenting to their children and make them able to move in society successfully (ROSEMOND, n.d.).

Lack of discipline increases the chances of involvement of children in criminal activities. In addition, discipline by a single parent is different from discipline by both the parents. Researches indicates that discipline by single parents especially single teen mothers increase the risk of criminal behavior in children. This is because single parent monitors their children less than the older married mother in terms of observing their actions and reaction in different circumstances. In addition, a single parent approach shows extremities which means they either do too much humble parenting or sometimes too much aggressive approach to discipline their children. In both cases, children can be spoilt. For instance, too much humble and loving behavior can increase the demand of the children for the things that can be harmful to his/her physical or psychological development. Same with the aggressive approach children become unable to show their wish and desire which can be efficient for their growth. Therefore, a balanced approached is necessary to understand the behavior of the children. The inability of monitoring or controlling the behavior of the children decreases the hospitality between children and parents which increases the gap within the family.

The criminal history of juveniles indicates that most of them belongs to the broken families or the parents who were unable to monitor their behavior. Lack of discipline results in poor social skills of the children and their antisocial behavior makes them aggressive, isolated or part of the company that can be dangerous for their future. For instance, parents who spend their time in providing necessities to their children through job and looking home more than the social circle and behavior of the children, these children can easily be dragged toward the criminal activities or in the company of the people who have a criminal mindset. Lack of monitoring reduces the chance of their recovery and in later life, these children show criminal behavior (“Effects of Parental Discipline on Juvenile Crime Rates [Marripedia],” n.d.).

Another discipline toward children that is excessively harsh punishment can also result in the negative psychological development of the children. This can be observed through the report which shows that criminal history indicates that they experience the harsh past live domestic violence, child abuse, physical abuse, and negligence in their childhood. Therefore, negligence can lead to criminal behavior in the future. Just like negligence, child abuse or harsh punishment also affect the psychological behavior of the children. Children feel emotions of fear, isolation, and helplessness in the early stage which changes into aggression and feeling of revenge in adulthood and this is how parent discipline decides the future behavior of the children. For this reason, the psychological and physical health of the parents should be positive. Parents who acquire aggressive and abusing nature are more likely to punish their children harshly which increases the risk of criminal behavior in them. Harsh punishment is a crucial factor for parental rejection and the probability of delinquency irrespective of parental attachments. The punishment given in aggression increases the chance of violent behavior that children show either on the spot in front of the parents while some keep their anger hidden and show when no one sees them. The second type of children acquires more chances of criminal activities as a lack of monitoring and discipline gives them more chance to show their violent side to other people.

The bottom line is that discipline toward children had been changed than it was in the 1950s. Parents today have a stronger bond with their children and they pay attention to their desires and point of view. On the other hand, in 1950s parents discipline was a little rigid but acceptable where children obey their parents' decisions without question. The role of discipline is vital as it shapes the psychological behavior of the children. Lack of discipline increases the chances of being aggressive and violent which results in criminal activities in later life.

**References**

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