

Child Rearing Practices Among Families in Countryside Philippines

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Abstract

This paper discusses a study on child-rearing practices in a countryside Philippines, specifically Catbalogan City. The determination of rearing practices and the determination of factors influencing the styles were also tackled. Results were based on standardized parenting styles questionnaires and semi-structured questionnaire. The questionnaires were translated into the local dialect for easy understanding of the respondents. A total of 325 households were randomly chosen as respondents of this study. Data shows that parents in this countryside city is of permissive type while only about 1 in every hundred is either authoritarian or permissive-authoritarian style. Personal variates were considered the highest influences to child rearing practices followed by beliefs and values.

Keywords: child rearing, authoritarian, permissive, parenting, Catbalogan, Philippines

I. INTRODUCTION

Good child rearing is certainly an issue that provokes different views. Children are raised and grow up as social beings, and this requires social technology of child care and education particularly early child education. Child rearing refers to a situation in which children are brought up by parents and/or relatives because this takes place at home. Mothers tend to be the caregivers and children are considered a domestic technology (Kobayashi, 2005).

The subject of child rearing can be bewildering (Johnston, 2005). Parents today are confronted with copious amounts of information about parenting, matched only it seems by their angst about which recommendations to follow. Should they

be firm or permissive? Should they focus on personality development or character? These are concerns most parents share. But the concern is not new. Some parents worried that their children were losing the dedication and religious conviction of parents.

Children of today indisputably are the custodian of tomorrow's world. The continuous excitement of any society depends on the ability of the society to socialize its children in the art of survival and cultural perpetuation. The future of the society is determined by the quality of its children (CIDA, undated).

It is a truism that parents in all societies today are confronted with copious

amounts of information about parenting. They struggle with how to raise their children in a way that prepares them for the complexities of life and equip them to one day become parents themselves. In order to accomplish this daunting task, parents rely on their socialization into parenting, their intuitive sense of right and wrong and their overall cultural beliefs (Smith and Mosby, 2003).

The subject on how to raise their children can be perplexing. Child rearing practices differ from one parent to another. Different child rearing practices lead to different child upbringing. It is one of the causes for individual differences. One is far different to another because of how he was brought up by his parents (Artisan, 2005).

In the Philippines, almost half of the population are children (NSCB, 2012). The country has a high number of street children. According to UNICEF, approximately 250,000 children are living on the streets, and about 3.7 million children are working. With this scenario, parents are responsible for providing their children to become competent and responsible citizens of the country. What kind of practices Filipino families in the countryside and what are the factors influencing these traits. How different it is to other cities in the Philippines especially in highly urbanized cities.

II. METHODOLOGY

The descriptive qualitative method by Schatzman and Strauss (1973) was used in this study.

A. Research Instrument

Standard parenting styles questionnaire and semi-structured questionnaire were also employed. These questionnaires were translated in Waray dialect for easy understanding of the respondents. There

are 13 questions related to authoritarian parenting, four questions about permissive parenting and 13 questions related to authoritative parenting, and the five statements for the semi-structured questionnaire. The protocol regarding communication letters to the City mayor and barangay chairmen was also followed.

B. Study Area

Two populous villages of Catbalogan City are Guindapunan and Canlapwas were considered. This countryside city is both rural and urban where traditions are still practiced, and urbanized living are slowly being adopted. The study area is similar in characteristics to other countryside cities in the Philippines that is predominantly Christian.

C. Sample size and Reliability

To ensure the data collected are reliable, the researchers use the sloven's formula in determining the number of respondents from the two barangays being studied. There are 91 households in Barangay Guindapunan and a total of 234 households in barangay Canlapwas.

In assessing construct validity, a thorough review of the socialization literature was conducted, and additional items were written to tap dimensions not included originally in the study. Series of discussions with other researchers were conducted and contribution of psychologists and other experts was noted.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile Characteristics

There are a total of 234 or 43.13 percent of Barangay Canlapwas respondents and a total of 91 or 39.55 percent in Barangay Guindapunan. The total of both barangays that comprise the sample is 325.

Table 1.
Age Distribution of the Respondents

Age	Canlapwas		Guindapunan		Both	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Below 20	1	0.43	2	2.20	3	0.92
20-29	39	16.67	19	20.88	58	17.85
30-39	51	21.79	28	30.77	79	24.31
40-49	71	30.34	20	21.98	91	28.00
50-59	48	20.51	16	17.58	64	19.69
60-69	19	8.12	4	4.40	23	7.08
70 above	4	1.71	2	2.20	6	1.85
Not specified	1	0.43	0.00	0.00	1	0.31
Total	234	100.00	91	100.00	325	100.00
Mean	43.13		39.55		41.34	
SD	12.52		12.91		12.72	

Age. The youngest age in Barangay Canlapwas is 19, and the oldest is 75. Meanwhile, in Barangay Guindapunan the youngest is 17 and the oldest is 76. The age implies that there are respondents who became mothers at age 17 which age is still young to carry out responsibilities and duties of a mother. The oldest is 76 which means that these respondents have already grown children who are professionals or have families of their own.

Sex and Civil Status. As seen in table 2, in both barangays, a total of 61 or 18.77 percent of the respondents are males and 264 or 81.23 percent are females. Out of 325 total respondents, two are single parents; 287 are married; 17 are separated; 17 are widowed while two respondents did not disclose their status.

Educational Attainment. Forty-two or 17.95 percent of the Father respondents in Barangay Canlapwas passed college level education while there are only ten or 10.99 percent in Barangay Guindapunan. The highest educational attainment in the two barangays is College level that implies that the father respondents have gone to formal schooling.

Forty-nine or 20.94 percent of the mother

respondents in Barangay Canlapwas are secondary level while 21 or 23.08 percent in Guindapunan are college level. Comparing the two barangays, Guindapunan has more mothers who have achieved higher educational attainment than the mothers of Canlapwas.

Average Monthly Family Income. Majority of the respondents in both barangays have a monthly family income of P1,000 – P5,000 only. It is pegged at one hundred forty-one or 43.38 percent of the respondents of both barangays have an average monthly. The result of the average monthly family income means that most of the respondents are below the poverty threshold.

Occupation. One hundred or 42.74 percent of the respondents in Brgy. Canlapwas are self-employed while there are 39 or 42.86 respondents in Brgy. Guindapunan is unemployed. In both barangays, there are 134 or 41.23 percent are self-employed.

Number of Children. In both barangays under study, 65 or 20.0 percent of the respondents have two children. While some respondents stated having eight and number of children. The average number of children for the two barangays

Table 2.
Sex and Civil Status of the Respondents

Profile	Canlapwas		Guindapunan		Both	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Sex						
Male	42	17.95	19	20.88	61	18.77
Female	192	82.05	72	79.12	264	81.23
Civil Status						
Single Parent	2	0.85	0	0.00	2	0.62
Married	205	87.61	82	90.11	287	88.31
Separated	11	4.70	6	6.59	17	5.23
Widowed	14	5.98	3	3.30	17	5.23
Not Specified	2	0.85	0	0.00	2	0.62

Table 3.
Parents' Educational Attainment of the Respondents

Educational Attainment	Canlapwas				Guindapunan			
	Father	%	Mother	%	Father	%	Mother	%
No schooling	1	0.43	2	0.85	0	0.00	0	0.00
Elementary	39	16.67	41	17.52	9	9.89	14	15.38
Secondary	71	30.34	85	36.32	13	14.26	25	27.47
College	74	31.62	82	35.04	19	20.88	39	42.86
Post Graduate	8	3.42	7	2.99	0	0	0	0.00

is four.

Age of Children. Both Brgy. Canlapwas and Guindapunan have majority of children whose ages range from 19-35 years old that pegged at 170 or 52.31 percent.

Child Rearing Practices

Parenting Styles. Barangay Canlapwas and Brgy. Guindapunan has the same parenting styles. Permissive parenting style was pegged as the highest in rank. Out of 325 total respondents, 283 or 87.08 percent preferred permissive parenting styles. This means that these parents are highly flexible. They act more as advisors of their children rather than decision makers and let them make the decisions while only some input from them. These parent respondents ignore their child's behavior. They are afraid to set limits on their children.

The next higher parenting style is authoritarian. Thirty-seven or 11.38 percent of the parent respondents are authoritarian. This implies that parents remind their children do all the things they are doing, and those that they have done for them. Parent respondents use strict rules and are flexible to change. These parents are demanding in their directions by reminding their children that they are their parents. They state their expectations and consequences clearly.

Three or 0.92 percent of the parent respondents is authoritative. This means that these respondents have the same view on how they treat their children as an equal member of the family. Likewise, these parents have warm and intimate times together with their children. They make high demands, sets rules and clear limits on their children that are monitored and praised.

Table 4.
Income and Occupation of the Respondents

Occupation and Income	Canlapwas		Guindapunan		Both	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Monthly Family Income						
1,000 and below	14	5.98	2	2.20	16	4.92
1,001 - 10,000	139	59.40	67	73.63	206	63.38
10,001- 20,000	26	11.11	2	2.20	28	8.62
20,001 – 30,000	4	1.71	1	1.10	5	1.54
30,001 – 40,000	2	0.85	2	2.20	4	1.23
40,001 and above	0	0.00	1	1.10	1	0.31
Occupation						
Government Employee	24	10.26	5	5.49	29	8.92
Private Employee	17	7.26	11	12.09	28	8.62
Self-employed	100	42.74	34	37.36	134	41.23
Unemployed	86	36.75	39	42.86	125	38.46
Not Specified	7	2.99	2	2.20	9	2.77

The shift from Filipinos' authoritarian style during the Spanish period to being permissive in the modern time support the studies conducted by Paco (2006) about Filipinos permissive parenting styles. However, permissive parenting often results in children who rank low in happiness and self-regulation (Baumrind as cited by BongV, 2010).

Factors that Influence Child Rearing

Based on the five semi-structured interview questions which are used in the study, the following are the varied answers of the parent respondents.

Ways of Raising Children patterned to Norms of the society. In both Barangays under study, 201 or 61.85 percent of the respondents believe that disciplining their children, giving them proper food and sending them to school are basic obligation for parents to do. The values that parent respondent have for their children include how to respect their elders especially their parents. They ensure that all of their children are educated as expected by the society. Hence, they aim for proper education. Both barangays Canlapwas and Guindapunan emphasize that the

discipline in respecting elders should start at a young age. They stress their hopes for their children to become professionals and good citizens in the country.

Beliefs and Values. There are 144 or 61.54 percent of parent respondents in Barangay Canlapwas believe and have strong faith in God as a factor that influenced child rearing practices. Good manners and hard work are values that are vital to teaching their children to become God-fearing individuals. Teaching children what is right and wrong are important in the formation of their behavior.

Meanwhile, forty-six or 50.55 percent of the respondents in Barangay Guindapunan have the same responses on beliefs and values of faith in God and hard work. They believe that good manners are attributes that are desirable for the children to become good members of the society where they live.

Personal Influences. Respondents of both barangays have personal experiences and ideas in raising their children. Two hundred four or 62.77 percent of the parent respondents believe that their parents are factors that influenced them

in raising their children. This means that their parents and their practices are factors that influence child rearing practices. In addition, too, sixty-five or 27.78 percent of respondents in Barangay Canlapwas and forty or 43.96 percent in Barangay Guindapunan emphasize that other people and other sources are factors too. Also, neighbor and environment which include the advancement of technology add to the list. These practices are different from each other which lead to the different upbringing of their children. Two hundred seventy-nine or 85.85 percent of the parent respondents of both barangays adhere to the beliefs and values earlier mentioned earlier.

This finding supports the literature cited that there are some potential causes of these child-rearing practices. These differences esteemed from several factors which include culture, personality, family size, parental background, socioeconomic status, educational level and religion (BongV, 2010).

There is no standard parenting style as there are no same parents. Some parents exercise one style but may also combine styles to create a unique blend in each and every family. For example, the mother may display an authoritative style while the father favors a more permissive approach or the other way around. In order to create a cohesive approach to parenting, it is essential that parents learn to cooperate as they combine various elements of their unique parenting styles. This study, however, did not explore into the individual or combined effect of the two parents' styles.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the foregoing findings, the following conclusions and recommendations are drawn:

1. There is a total of 325 respondents involved in the study, in which dominant number is the female at 81%. Majority of respondents are aged 40 – 49 years old, married with an average of four children.
2. The respondents in both barangays have parents that have reached college level, but the majority of them are living below the poverty threshold earning only as high as P10,000 and below per month. The government agency concerned or other researchers may look into the causes of low socio-economic status despite high educational attainment of parents.
3. In terms occupation, one hundred or 42.74 percent of the respondents in Brgy. Canlapwas are self-employed while there are 39 or 42.86 respondents in Brgy. Guindapunan is unemployed. In both barangays, there are 134 or 41.23 percent are self-employed. Future extension programs should cater to address the unemployment in Barangay Canlapwas and Brgy. Guindapunan.
4. Permissive parenting style in both barangays was the dominant style followed by authoritarian and least is authoritative style. Another study in the same locale should be conducted to determine the relationship between the socio-economic status and parenting styles. Further, one may explore the advantages and disadvantages of permissive parenting style in the Filipino culture.
5. Child rearing practices are influenced by several factors such as norms of the society, beliefs in God and personal influences by the families and relatives. Dominant

factor is the personal influences by the family and relatives, followed by norms dictated by the society and beliefs in God.

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