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**PERCEPTIONS OF YOUTHS TOWARDS TRADITIONAL AND MODERN
APPROACHES TO PARENTING IN MALAYSIA**

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YONG SHAN TING

DECLARATION

I declare that the material contained in this paper is the end result of my own work and that due acknowledgement has been given in the bibliography and references to ALL sources be they printed, electronic or personal.

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APPROVAL FORM

This research paper attached hereto, entitled “Perceptions of Youths towards Traditional and Modern Approaches to Parenting in Malaysia” prepared and submitted by Yong Shan Ting in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Social Science (Hons) Psychology is hereby accepted.

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*9 may 2023*Date:

Abstract

Parents are the person who the child first comes into contact with when born. They play an important role in children's development in which the growing environment formed by parents, the attitude and behaviors of parents will influence children. Parents will be the first person they meet and family is the first place where they grow up. Parenting becomes more important as children are strong learners. Thus, this research aims to study traditional and modern parenting from youths' perspectives, and to study the most common parenting style used in Malaysia nowadays. The study used quantitative research methods while answering the Google survey form to collect the data from 120 Malaysian youths who are 18-25 years old. All the data will be analyzed by using Microsoft Excel and shown in tables. The findings of this research shows that there is a positive relationship between the RO

Besides, the result also shows that the labels and terms which represent traditional parenting style and modern parenting style are also changing as time passes. Therefore, this research concluded that the characteristics of parenting style youths receive, they are more likely to apply in the future also, and parenting styles may continue to change through the generations.

Keywords: Parenting Styles, Traditional and Modern Parenting Styles, Malaysian Youths, Characteristics of traditional and modern parenting styles, Differences of Traditional and Modern Parenting Style, Culture.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Parents are the person who the child first comes into contact with when born. They play an important role in children's development in which the growing environment formed by parents, the attitude and behaviors of parents will influence children. Society always says that a child is born like a blank slate, what the final look on the blank paper is depends on his or her growing environment, person he or she meets, experience and decision making he or she makes, and emotion he or she has. Parents will be the first person they meet and family is the first place where they grow up. Parenting becomes more important as children are strong learners. The Bobo Doll Experiment which was conducted by Albert Bandura has shown how fast a child learns from adults. The children who participate in the experiment watch on the video how adults attack the bobo doll for only one time, and they are able to repeat the adults' behavior when they are facing the bobo doll (Dr.Saul McLeod, 2023). Thus, parenting is important since the children are young.

Besides, parents and a growing environment are not only the two factors of parenting, culture and beliefs may also be the factors affecting the parenting style as it assigns parenting responsibilities differently (Bornstein, 2013). According to Bornstein (2013), parents are influenced by cultures on parenting as they are receiving different guidance and beliefs about how to raise the children properly. There are three main races in Malaysia which are Malay, Chinese and Indian, and each of the races has their own culture.

According to Ali Maki (2008), there are two types of parents in Muslim culture which are lenient parenting and authoritarian parenting. Parents who are lenient in style parenting are usually too busy with creating a material life without paying much attention to their children's mental and emotional development. This parenting style makes children fail in this life due to the parents not making it a priority that children should go to school. However, parents with authoritarian parenting are controlling their children strictly which will set rules for the children to follow (Ali Maki, 2008). Children under authoritarian parenting only can follow the rules and tasks set by parents without giving any explanation.

Not only that, authoritarian parenting style is also often seen in Chinese culture. Chinese parents are always looking for discipline, hard work, to be better or excellent in everything including life, work, children's academic performance and more. Yale Law Professor, Amy Chua, who is also a Chinese mother, had come out with a book, "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother", which described her own strict discipline skills and parenting style from a traditional Chinese point of view (Lasca, 2019). From the book, Amy Chua had mentioned that Chinese mothers will set high standards and strict rules for their children to achieve, and Chinese mothers are able to raise academically successful children. It is also clear that Chinese parents will be more willing to spend more time and energy on pushing their children to learn more and practice to become better.

In Indian families, parents are more focused on teaching their children the importance of worship and prayers, and the values of life (Kedro, 2018). In Indian families, men are the ones who make the decisions and women are responsible to take care of the house. Children in Indian families have high valued respect for elders as they usually grow up with their grandparents. They learn how to respect elders through what they look around from their growing environment. In

addition, Indian parents will discipline their children in a more stern and aggressive manner. Since respect to elders is seen as one of the key components or values to be learned by every child in Indian culture, children will be given punishment if they speak or act against adults (Kedro, 2018).

Besides the culture, parenting methods are changing now while the times are advancing. Time goes by, when technology improves, the way humans live, the things, the environment and the mindset of humans are also improving. For instance, traditional media, such as radio and newspaper, are less used when the society finds new media and mobile phones able to cover the function of traditional media and faster than traditional media. The society nowadays prefers to chat by using mobile phones or social media rather than face-to-face communication. When the generation is changing, things are also changing from traditional to modern parenting style.

Traditional parenting is more like an authoritarian parenting style which parents will control and set rules for the children strictly. They aim to teach their children to grow up in a good manner, polite, and responsible manner in order to be one of the useful members in the society or family. Traditional parenting parents will have a stronger power to control and make the decision for their children (Lind, 2022). On the other hand, modern parenting gives more options and freedom to the children. Modern parents prefer using psychological approaches such as giving more space and open minded for children to think rather than educate them strictly (Stuart, n.d.). Children under modern parenting have more freedom and are able to make the decisions by themselves.

Although traditional parenting has less freedom, it cannot be denied that children who have traditional parenting are more disciplined while compared with modern parenting. But at the same time, these children are also facing a lack of social skill problems as their parents are focusing on

their academic performance and values, not their emotions (Stuart, n.d.). Modern parenting children have more space and freedom to make decisions, yet they show less respect to the elders and their future spoils due to their parents giving them too much freedom and without control (Stuart, n.d.).

1.2 Theoretical Framework

The theory that supported this study is Social Learning Theory which was introduced by Albert Bandura (“Introduction to Social Learning Theory in Social Work”, 2022). It is a theory about a person learning the behaviors, motivation, emotional reactions and attitudes by observing people around or influenced by the environment around them. They will learn about how others react and how others behave by observation and imitating it in their own life (Cherry, 2022). Social Learning Theory often is used in parent-children communication. As mentioned before, children have a very fast speed and strong ability to learn from parents and the growing environment. Children are surrounded by many influential models such as parents, friends, and cartoon characters on the television (McLeod, 2023).

As this study focuses on what youths perceive towards traditional and modern parenting, the researcher is able to study whether parenting style brings any impacts towards youths perceptions about their parenting in the future. Although there is a generation gap between parents and youth now, according to Social Learning Theory, the upbringing is influenced by the family; therefore, the researcher is able to know if youths accept the parenting style from their parents and apply it to their children in the future. In addition, Social Learning Theory is also able for the researcher to study whether youths will keep the same parenting style with their parents or change their mind after being influenced by the society while the things and environment are changing.

1.3 Problem Statement

There are limited studies that have been done about this topic. Most of the studies are focusing on the relationship between parents and adolescents. For instance, researchers found that there is a positive relationship between the parenting style and life satisfaction of adolescents as the lower the parents' psychological control, the higher the adolescents' life satisfaction (Nainee et al., 2021). Moreover, according to Nor Sheereen Zulkefly et al. (2021), the research was studying the relationship between adolescents' self-esteem and the parenting style received by adolescents. The researchers concluded that the higher the control by parents, the lower the adolescents' self-esteem, and it led to mental health problems of adolescents (Nor Sheereen Zulkefly et al, 2021). Thus, the result showed a positive relationship between parenting style and adolescent's self-esteem.

These studies are focusing on adolescents' perspective and there are very few studies that are conducted from a youths perception. Youths have a more mature thinking compared with children and adolescents as they have more life experience compared with children or adolescents. Furthermore, youths are the ones who will be the parents in the future very soon. While talking about parent-child communication, society always thinks about the relationships between parents and adolescents, or parents and preschool children, and youths are the group who have always been ignored.

1.4 Research Questions and Research Objectives

Thus, the first question of this research (RQ1) is 'What are the perceptions of youths towards traditional and modern parenting?'. From the youth's perspective, the researcher is able to

know how they think about parenting in this generation. In addition, this research will have a better understanding about the second research question (RQ2) which is ‘What most common parenting style is used in Malaysia nowadays?’. According to Bosley (2017), collectivist countries such as Malaysia mostly use authoritarian parenting style. By conducting this research, it will answer the second research question in order to know if it will be the same with what Bosley had said or different.

The present study aimed to study traditional and modern parenting from youths’ perspectives (RO1). This study also attempted to study the most common parenting style used in Malaysia nowadays (RO2). Hence, by examining how youths look at traditional parenting and modern parenting, and the most popular or common parenting style in Malaysia, it may have a better understanding towards parenting in the present and future generations.

1.5 Research Method

This research will conduct quantitative research methods to answer the research questions and study the research objectives mentioned above. Results shown by quantitative research are in numerical and statistical data which will be shown clearly for each question (Devault, 2020). Moreover, quantitative research methods help the researcher to save time on collecting data as one of the advantages of quantitative research methods is being able to gather the data quickly (Miller, 2020). The target audience of this research is 120 Malaysian youths who are 18-25 years old. All the data collected by the respondents via survey Google Form will be analyzed in Microsoft Excel.

1.6 Significance of Study

This study is important because this issue is related to future parenting and communication. The parenting style used by parents is affecting the children's development throughout life such as communication, academic performance, mental health and more. In children development, parents are playing an important role. Children learn the attitude, value, belief and behavior from their parents and the growing environment created by parents. When time passes by, some traditional thinking and things are slowly eliminated, however some are not and continue to pass to the next generation. Culture, growing environment, parenting and communication can be the factors in passing things on to the next generation. Additionally, this study will help to have more understanding about whether traditional parenting is still passing down to the new generation and will youths who will be the parents in the future continue to use that parenting style or change to others. It is related to what kind of parenting style and communication style will be used by the new generation and the society in the future.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Approaches to Parenting for Youths

Parenting not only focuses on academic performance, behavior and emotions, it also includes mental health, physical and social. A psychologist, Diana Baumrid, and two researchers from Stanford, Eleanor Maccoby and John Martin, had come up with four main parenting styles in society now (Zeltser, 2021). Different parenting styles will bring different outcomes to different children, and there are two certain characteristics that can be identified in these four parenting styles are responsiveness and demandingness. Responsiveness refers to the degree to which parents demand children's mature or control children's behaviors; however, demandingness refers to the level of acceptance and sensitivity to the developmental needs and emotions of children (Li, 2022). These four parenting styles are often used as a reference while talking about Social Learning theory in parenting.

Authoritarian parenting style, the first parenting style, refers to less responsiveness and high demandingness in which parents have high expectations and demand for their children but low responses to child's needs (Li, 2022). Parents who are authoritarian will set rules and orders for their children to follow strictly. These parents will control their children strictly and there is only a one-way communication between parents and children. Children under authoritarian parenting style are not allowed to reject and ask for reasons (Li, 2022). According to Morin (2022), authoritarian parents focus on letting their children know what are mistakes by punishments rather than teaching their children what is the better choice. Authoritarian parenting style youths grow

up in discipline and politeness, but at the same time they also focus on themselves for not living up to their parents' expectations (Morin, 2022).

Permissive parenting style is talking about parents who are high responsiveness and low demandingness which is opposite with authoritarian parenting style. Permissive parents will set only a few rules for the children and do not force them to follow strictly (Li, 2022). There is a two-way communication between parents and children that children are allowed to voice out their needs and think to discuss with parents freely. According to Zeltser (2021), permissive parents are more willing to play a friendship role with their children. They prefer to guide and encourage their children to learn from a mistake or problem rather than showing disappointment and saying no to their children (Morin, 2022). However, youths under permissive parenting style have a higher risk for their health problems due to the freedom that is given by their parents. Since permissive parents are not controlling their children strictly, children are able to eat what they want and lack of exercise in order to result in health problems. (Morin, 2022).

The third parenting style introduced by Diana Baumrid is neglectful parenting, also called uninvolved parenting (Brody, 2021). It refers to low responsiveness and low demandingness in which parents do not pay more attention or are uninvolved in children's development. According to Morin (2022), neglectful parents do not spend much time and energy to educate and take care of their children. They expect children to grow up by themselves and believe that children will do everything better without their supervision (Morin, 2022). The communication between parent and children is also affected while parents do not pay attention to their children and children are unable to ask their parents when they face any problem because their parents are busy or ignore them. According to Brody (2021), children who grow up under neglectful parents are having depression

and anxiety more easily than others. They have to make decisions by themselves without any guidance and are unable to share or discuss with others when they face problems.

Last but not least is an authoritative parenting style with high responsiveness and high demandingness. Authoritative parents will set clear rules and orders for their children and they will provide explanations and reasons for the actions (Li, 2022). Communication between parents and children is a two-way communication where children are able to have open discussions with parents freely. According to Morin (2022), children who grow up with authoritative parents are happier and more successful. The relationships between parents and children are more comfortable and the conflict between parents and children are also lesser (Brody, 2021). Authoritative parents will balance between control and support of their children. They will control their children but at the same time they also show support and encouragement to their children. They will also listen to children's needs, feelings and emotions (Zeltser, 2021).

2.2 Perception of Youths on Current Parenting Practices

According to Goh (2013), the study found out that there are positive and negative influences of parents' parenting style from youth perception. The study concluded that authoritative parenting style shows a high positive influence in youth development compared with authoritarian parenting style and permissive parenting style. The respondents had categorized the characteristics of authoritative parenting style such as being supportive under a good role model. From youth perception, parents who are showing support, respect, trust and patience to them, the relationship between parents and youths is greater than others (Goh, 2013). However, authoritarian parenting style and permissive parenting style are bringing negative influence in youth development. Hostile behavior, strict supervision and showing lesser care are the characteristics

of authoritarian parenting style and permissive parenting style, which youth categorized these under as bad role models (Goh, 2013). Goh (2013) also concluded that youth nowadays view authoritarian parenting style and permissive parenting style, which are the bad role models, as negative parenting practice; yet good role model, authoritative parenting style, as positive parenting practice.

Since youth have mature thoughts, they are more likely to understand the method and reason of the parenting style used by their parents. According to Rajan et al. (2020), the researchers have found out there is a retrospective exploration from young adults' perception to parenting style. The results come out from the researchers are that parents have involved themselves in the role of making decisions for youth, they will also go through child's belongings such as mobile phones, and they have more power to control their kids. However, the researchers also stated there is a consensus among the participants (youths) that they think the decisions made by their parents are providing a good future to them (Rajan et al., 2020). The respondents mentioned that they are able to understand the reason why their parents treat them strictly, such as hitting and scolding them while they are small, after they grow up. Youths are able to change their point of view while looking at something or someone when they grow up, and they are willing to accept their unpleasant childhood experiences.

2.3 Social Learning Theory for Parenting Youths

In parent-child communication, it always links with Social Learning Theory easily. Observational Learning, which is a component under Social learning Theory, mentioned children learn new things, behaviors and responses by observing others (Lang, 2020). According to Telzer

et al. (2018), there are four core structures of social learning theory which are differential association, differential reinforcement, imitation and definitions.

Differential association refers to the direct connection between an individual and a group of people expressing particular attitude, behavior and values, such as family (Telzer et al., 2018). Differential reinforcement mentioned about the idea that an individual's past, present and expected future punishments and rewards for a given actions or behavior (Hassan & Lett, n.d.). Imitation, which is also known as modelling, is the same with observational learning in which an individual will observe and learn the behaviors from humans around them (Telzer et al., 2018). Definitions reflect the meaning of a behavior or an attitude that can be described as right or wrong, and good or bad (Telzer et al., 2018).

According to the research done by Telzer et al (2018), parents play an important role in youth development since they are adolescents. Parental management will affect and shape a child's thoughts, behaviors, attitude and decision making when he or she is adolescents. Through the study, researchers found out that authoritative parenting style has a positive connection with high level of child academic competence and lower delinquency compared to others (Telzer et al., 2018). Not only that, researchers also found out that mothers play an important role in influencing children. For example, when a mother is willing to evaluate her child's ability in a domain and the domain itself, and as a model, the child will engage himself or herself in that domain also (Telzer et al., 2018).

Thus, it proves that parents have a strong power in influencing children's behaviors and thoughts. Children are being shaped and learn from their parents through observation when they are adolescents, and they will imitate the behaviors and thoughts. When they start to fix their

thinking towards something, what behavior is right and what behavior is wrong, it will slowly affect their decision making when they grow up and become youths. Therefore, from social learning theory, youths are learning and modeling starting from adolescents.

2.4 Impact of Traditional Parenting and Modern Parenting for Youths

While talking about the impact of traditional parenting and modern parenting, it still has a close relationship with the four parenting styles. As mentioned in Chapter 1, 1.1 background of study, authoritarian parenting style is the one which under traditional parenting states that parents will set rules and control their children strictly. However, modern parenting is having lesser control and giving more freedom and options which is similar to authoritative parenting style. These both parenting are bringing positive and negative impacts to the youths. Youths personality, behaviors, attitudes and thoughts are slowly shaped when they are young. It cannot be denied that they might change their personality and behavior when influenced by the environment, person they meet, and the culture they learn when they grow up, but parenting still seems to be the most important factor in affecting youths' development.

One of the positive impacts of traditional parenting for youths is they are more disciplined and have good behavior (Perry, 2019). Youths under authoritarian parenting have clear rules to follow when they are small, such as what is right or wrong, and what is good or bad. They understand what should and should not be done in different situations, and what is and is not acceptable clearly (Perry, 2019). It is because authoritarian parents will give harsh punishment when the child is making mistakes. Children will learn from the mistake by receiving punishment and remember in their mind to avoid making the mistake again. Besides, youths who grow with authoritarian parenting are having a more clear goal to achieve (“12 Pros and Cons of Authoritarian

Parenting”, n.d.). Authoritarian parents will give clear and detailed rules or instructions to the child. When the child follows the orders step-by-step, they are closer to the goal of knowing what they need to do, and how to reduce mistakes or problems (“12 Pros and Cons of Authoritarian Parenting”, n.d.).

On the other hand, authoritarian parenting style also brings negative impacts such as behavior problems, emotional problems and mental health problems. According to Dewar (2022), researchers mentioned that harsh punishment and shaming are not resulting in behavioral improvements for the long-term. Giving harsh punishment is letting the child know his or her mistake, but at the same time parents are showing less warmth to the child. Children will start to think before every action to avoid getting wrong and lead to receiving punishment. This kind of behavior would hinder a child’s ability to make a decision and lead to low self-esteem (Perry, 2019). According to Arya (n.d.), more youths are facing mental health problems such as depression and anxiety compared with other parenting styles. Not only that, another negative impact of traditional parenting is emotional problems in which they are shy to express or show their own emotion because the love and warmth received from parents are fewer (Perry, 2018).

According to Hetherington (2022), authoritative parenting, which is known as one of modern parenting, will lead to best outcomes for children no matter in academic performance or mental health. The study found out that authoritative parents are able to produce successful children who will help to guide and put their children on the right path. Since there is an open discussion between parents and youths, the relationship is also more friendly, and able to understand and respect each other (Aparna, 2020). Modern parents are showing respect and giving more freedom to their child. According to Social Learning Theory, children observe and learn from

parents; therefore, children under authoritative parenting will also learn to respect and understand their parents. When these behaviors, thoughts and attitudes are being shaped when they are small, they will treat others the same way as they learn when they grow up. In addition, modern parents will pay more attention to the child's demands and emotions which will help to raise the child's self-esteem too (Stuart, n.d.).

According to the study done by Hetherington (2022), modern parenting is showing lesser negative impacts to children. However, Guibert (2013) mentioned research showing that modern parenting is somehow hindering a child's brain development. Study found that when a baby starts to cry, modern parents will respond quickly. It leads to the child understanding that parents will respond and fulfill their needs immediately. These kinds of positive responses not only impact brain development but also a method to shape a child's personality, said by the researchers (Guibert, 2013). Children who give too much freedom and respond may lead to pride, indulgence and stubborn personality which wish everyone will always respond to him or her. They may also face social problems when they become youths to face society due to their personality.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

To ensure the research is able to conduct successfully, there are some necessary procedures that have to be followed. The research method, samples, and measures of this research will be included in this chapter. Besides, it also included the explanation of the research method that has been used, each section in the survey form, reason for choosing these populations, and the software will be used to analyze the data.

3.1 Research Method

This study is going to conduct a survey, which is one of the quantitative research methods, by collecting the data from the respondents through Google Form. Quantitative research is a data collection method which studies the variables through numeric data (Indeed, 2022). The numbers shown by the survey data are able to give a clear and easy understanding for everyone to know. One of the reasons for conducting quantitative research methods is it saves a lot of time while compared with qualitative research methods. Respondents can answer the survey questionnaire on their own by the shared link or QR code anywhere, without having to meet face-to-face. Besides, quantitative research methods will help the researchers to improve the reliability of the study. The outcome of quantitative research is in numbers, which reflect whether the result is aligned with the preconceived theory easily, but not a subjective judgment (Indeed, 2022). Thus, the data collected is more accurate and reliable.

The questions were adapted from “Parenting Style Quiz: What Type Of Parent You Are” on 365 tests official website, “Parenting Style Quiz” on PsychCentral Official Website and the observation from daily life, and a pilot test was conducted (Elegant E-learning, Inc., n.d.; White, 2022). There are four sections and a total of 20 questions in the survey form. Before answering the questionnaire, there will be an acknowledgement part to ensure the participants are agreeing to participate voluntarily. Respondents are able to proceed answering the survey form after they choose “I hereby consented and agreed to participate in this research”; on the contrary, they will stop immediately if they choose “I disagree with participating in this research”.

Section A is the demographic part which is to have a basic understanding about the background of the respondents, such as age, academic qualifications and ethnicity, and these questions help to ensure all the respondents are under the target audience.

Section B is the part to understand what common parenting style is used in Malaysia nowadays, and what the respondents’ think about parenting style in past generations. For Question 1 to Question 6, respondents are able to choose only one answer that fits their experience. Each question has four answers, and each answer represents the four parenting styles which are authoritarian style, permissive style, neglectful style and authoritative style respectively. Question 7 is to understand how youth think about the parenting style in the past generation.

Section C is the part to understand what youth’s perception toward parenting. There are three questions under this section, and using Likert Scale method to answer the questions. Respondents are answering this section based on their opinion and preference to choose from 1 to 5. 1 represents that they “strongly disagree” to the statement or the question, 2 is “disagree”, 3 is “neither disagree nor agree”, 4 is “agree”, and 5 is “strongly agree”.

The last section of the survey form is Section D, to understand how parents affect youth and how youth treat their children in the future. Question 11 to Question 16 are the same questions in Section B (Question 1 to Question 6), but from a different perspective. In Section B respondents are answering based on the child's perspective about how their parents treat them. In Section D, respondents are putting themselves into the parent's perspective to answer the questions. This helps to understand the parenting style that they received during childhood is bringing any effect on how they will be a parent in future. It is interesting to know whether youth nowadays will buy for their own parents' parenting style or change a new parenting way to treat their children in the future. Last but not least, Question 17 is to understand what youth think about the parenting style will be in the new or future generation.

3.2 Samples

The sample for this study is drawn from 120 Malaysian youths who are aged 18-25, still residing with their parents, and have a strong relationship with their family. It is important to know what kind of perspective toward parenting from this group of audience, because they are the ones who will become parents soon. They have more mature thoughts to think about and plan for their future. They are also important because they may be the parents who represent the new generation. This group of audience will help us to understand clearly what kind of parenting style or trend in the future.

Besides, this study also conducts snowball sampling to collect the data. Snowball sampling is a way in which participants assist researchers recruit more respondents who are being targeted (Glen, n.d.). The link of the Google survey form will be sent by the researcher to the target

respondents around, and the respondents will also send it to their friends to fill in the survey form. It is like a snowball rolled from small to big, the respondents help to recruit more target audience to fill in the survey in order to get more data and respond.

3.3 Measures

After the responses are collected from the respondents, the data will be analyzed using Microsoft Excel. Microsoft Excel is an easy-to-use software and it enables researchers to easily simplify the data with one of their features, which is pivot tables. By using pivot tables, it helps to visualize the relationship between the data (Hassan, 2022). In addition, Microsoft Excel has the function to convert the data in different charts to show the data clearly.

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

In this chapter, all of the collected data will be presented in a table with a well explained. All 120 sets of questionnaires collected via Google Form were used in this research. All explanations under this chapter will be distributed into 4 sections according to the survey Google Form.

4.1 Demographic

Table 4.1 presents the age of the 120 respondents. Analysis shows that the highest number of respondents participating in the survey is 51 (42.5%) people who are 22-23 years old, soon afterwards 38 respondents (31.7%) are aged 20-21 years old. There were 24-25 year old respondents accounting for 23 people (19.2%), and 8 respondents (6.7%) are between 18-19 years old.

Table 4.1: Age of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18 - 19	8	6.6
20 - 21	38	31.7
22 - 23	51	42.5
23 - 24	23	19.2
Total	120	100

Table 4.2 shows the result of the academic qualification which is also respondents' current status, and Table 4.3 is showing the ethnicity of 120 respondents. From 120 respondents, there are 84 (70.0%) Bachelor of Degree students, 27 respondents (22.5%) are employed, 7 (5.8%) secondary school students, and 2 (1.7%) respondents are master students. The results show none of the respondents are Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students. In addition, 117 respondents (97.5%) among 120 respondents are Chinese, 2 respondents (1.7%) choosing others, 1 respondent (0.8%) is Indian, and there are no any Malay respondents.

Table 4.2: Academic Qualification of Respondents

Academic Qualification (Current Status)	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Secondary School Student	7	5.8
Bachelor of Degree Student	84	70.0
Master Student	2	1.7
PhD Student	0	0.0
Employed	27	22.5
Status	120	100

Table 4.3: Ethnicity of Respondents

Ethnicity	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Malay	0	0.0
Chinese	117	97.5
Indian	1	0.8
Others	2	1.7
Total	120	100

From the results, this study will be more representative of the perceptions of youths who are aged 22-23, and Bachelor of Degree students. In addition, as the number of Chinese respondents is very high, it means that the results for the questions later may be related to Chinese culture, beliefs and perspective. As mentioned in Chapter 1, Amy Chua had written a book about ‘tiger parenting’ (Authoritarian parenting style) usually used by Chinese parents (Lascala, 2019). Thus, it can be assumed that the common parenting style used in Malaysia in 4.2 may have a high degree of authoritarian parenting style.

4.2 Common Parenting Style Used in Malaysia Nowadays

As mentioned in Chapter 3, there are four answers for Question 1 until Question 6, which also represent the four types of parenting style (Authoritarian, Permissive, Neglectful and Authoritative). Table 4.4 has shown that the highest amount of parenting style practiced among 120 families is permissive parenting style which has 43 respondents (36%). Second highest parenting style practiced in Malaysia is neglectful parenting style which has around 31 respondents (25.4%). The result also shows that 30 respondents (24.9%) are having authoritative parenting

style, and 17 respondents (13.8%) having authoritarian parenting style. However, the results are surprising, which is not the same as what the researcher assumed in 4.1, because the percentage of authoritarian parenting style is the least in this research.

Table 4.4 : Common Parenting Style used by 120 Respondents Parents Now in Malaysia

Parenting Style commonly used by Malaysia's parents now	Total Percentage (Sum Q1 to Q6 = 600%)	Percentage (Convert to 100%)	Frequency (among 120)
Authoritarian Parenting Style	83%	13.8%	17
Permissive Parenting Style	216%	36.0%	43
Neglectful Parenting Style	152%	25.3%	30
Authoritative Parenting Style	149%	24.9%	30
Total	600%	100%	120

Besides, Table 4.5 had shown the results for Question 7 which to understand how youth think about the characteristics of parenting style used by their parents' generation. There are 10 options, and respondents are able to choose multiple answers. In those 10 options, 5 of it are likely negative such as 'strict', 'less freedom', 'heavy punishment', 'high expectation' and 'not able to voice out'; however, another 5 options are more likely to be positive which are 'love', 'more freedom', 'fair punishment and reward', 'patient' and 'able to voice out'.

From the Table 4.5 able to understand that the three higher characteristics of parenting style used by the respondents parents' generation is 'Love' which has 80 respondents (66.7%), 68 respondents (56.7%) choosing 'More Freedom', and 58 among 120 respondents (48.3%) were choosing 'Able to Voice Out' as one of the characteristics. Followed by 'Patient' with 49 respondents (40.8%), and 'Fair Punishment and Reward' with 48 people (40.0%). The 5 least characteristics selected by the respondents are 'Strict' with 46 respondents (38.3%), 'Less Freedom' with 32 respondents (26.7%), 'High Expectation' with 27 respondents (22.5%), 'Not Able to Voice Out' with 22 respondents (18.3%), and 'Heavy Punishment' with 16 respondents (13.3%).

According to Donnellan (2021), traditional parenting style is strict and has more rules which is similar to authoritarian parenting style. In contrast, the modern parenting style is open-minded with more freedom and options (Donnellan, 2021). Table 4.5 has shown that the parenting style practiced by parents now is modern parenting style as the percentage of characteristics which represent modern parenting style such as 'More Freedom' and 'Able to Voice Out' are high. The results also align with the results shown in Table 4.4, permissive parenting style is the common parenting style used in Malaysia nowadays.

Table 4.5: Characteristics of Parenting Style Used by Respondents Parents' Generation

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strict	46	38.3
Love	80	66.7
Less Freedom	32	26.7
More Freedom	68	56.7
Heavy Punishment	16	13.3
Fair Punishment and Reward	48	40.0
High Expectation	27	22.5
Patient	49	40.8
Not Able to Voice Out	22	18.3
Able to Voice Out	58	48.3

4.3 Youth's Perception toward Parenting Style

Table 4.6: Do Respondents Agree Parents Play Important Role in Children Growth

Question 8	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	2	1.7
Disagree	0	0.0
Neither Disagree or Agree	11	9.2
Agree	25	20.8
Strongly Agree	82	68.3
Total	120	100.0

Table 4.6 above is presenting how youth view parents as playing an important role in children's growth. The results show that there are 82 respondents (68.3%) are strongly agree with this statement, 25 respondents (20.8%) thinking parents play important role in children growth, and 11 respondents (9.2) are being neutral which they think parents are neither important or not important in children growth; in the opposite, there are 2 respondents (1.7%) strongly disagree that parents are playing important role in children growth and none of the respondents showing disagree with the statement.

Furthermore, the result of how youth view parenting style is important for children to grow is shown in Table 4.7. There are 82 among 120 respondents (68.3%) strongly agree that parenting style is important for children to grow, 30 respondents (25.0%) agree and 7 respondents (5.8%)

neither disagree nor agree with the statement. Followed by 1 respondent (0.8%) who disagree with the statement, and no respondents selected strongly disagree.

Table 4.7: Do Respondents Agree Parenting Style is Important for Children to Grow

Question 9	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0
Disagree	1	0.8
Neither Disagree or Agree	7	5.8
Agree	30	25.0
Strongly Agree	82	68.3
Total	120	100.0

The result of the last question in this section is showing in Table 4.8, what youth's perception towards the parenting style they received will affect how they treat their children in the future. The number of respondents who strongly disagree and disagree with this statement is 3 (2.5%) and 7 (5.8) respectively. The number of respondents who were neutral with this statement is 17 people (12.5). However, 31 respondents (25.8%) agree that the parenting style they received will affect how they treat their children in the future, and 64 respondents (53.3%) are strongly agreeing with it.

Table 4.8: Do Respondents Agree the Parenting Style They Received Will Affect How They Treat Their Children in The Future

Question 10	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	3	2.5
Disagree	7	5.8
Neither Disagree or Agree	15	12.5
Agree	31	25.8
Strongly Agree	64	53.3
Total	120	100.0

As a result, the majority of respondents, 50% and over, agree that parents are playing an important role in children's growth, parenting style is important for children to grow, and they also agree that the parenting style they received will affect how they treat their children in the future.

4.4 Youth's Perception toward Parenting Style After Themselves Being Parents in Future

Table 4.9: Preferable Parenting Style of 120 Respondents Who View Themselves Being Parents in Future

Parenting Style Used in New Generations/ Future	Total Percentage (Sum Q1 to Q6 = 600%)	Percentage (Convert to 100%)	Frequency (among 120)
Authoritarian Parenting Style	23%	3.9%	5
Permissive Parenting Style	153%	25.6%	31
Neglectful Parenting Style	47%	7.8%	9
Authoritative Parenting Style	377%	62.8%	75
Total	600%	100%	120

The last section of the survey is about to understand the youth's perception toward parenting style after themselves being parents in future. Table 4.9 shows the preferable parenting style of 120 respondents who view themselves being parents in the future. There are 75 (62.8%) among 120 respondents wishing to have an authoritative parenting style to their children. In addition, 31 respondents (25.6%) prefer to have permissive parenting style, respondents with neglectful parenting style is 9 people (7.8%), and there are only 5 respondents (3.9%) choosing authoritarian parenting style.

Table 4.10: Characteristics of Parenting Style Used by Youth after Viewing Themselves as Parents in The Future

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strict	19	15.8
Love	105	87.5
Less Freedom	5	4.2
More Freedom	95	79.2
Heavy Punishment	2	1.7
Fair Punishment and Reward	81	67.5
High Expectation	22	18.3
Patient	76	63.3
Not Able to Voice Out	5	4.2
Able to Voice Out	90	75.0

The last question of the whole survey form is looking for the characteristics of parenting style used by youth after viewing themselves as parents in the future. The options given are the same with Question 4.6 in Section 2 (4.2 Table 5.5). Table 4.10 shows there are a high number of respondents who choose 'Love' as one of the characteristics of parenting style which has 105 people (87.5%), and 95 (79.2%) of the respondents selected 'More Freedom'. Followed by option 'Able to Voice Out' which has 90 respondents (75.0%), 'Fair Punishment and Reward' with 81 respondents (67.5%), and 'Patient' with 76 respondents (63.3%). In contrast, respondents choosing

'High Expectation' is 22 people (18.3%), and 'Strict' with 19 respondents (15.8%). The result of respondents who selected 'Less Freedom' and 'Not Able to Voice Out' are the same, which is 5 people (4.2%). The last option 'Heavy punishment' only 2 respondents (1.7%).

It can be concluded that there might be a lot of parents with authoritative parenting styles in the future. As this group of respondents are receiving a more freedom and love parenting style, they are also willing to inherit the parenting style which they received to their children in the future. Thus, the results above show that parenting style will affect how youths think about the parenting style after they become parents. The way they are being brought up and the education from their parents will affect and reflect their future parenting style.

CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction

This chapter will discuss the results of Chapter 4 and the limitations that have been faced during research. In addition, this chapter will also cover the recommendations for this research and suggestions for future studies in this research area. Lastly, there will be a final conclusion as an ending to summarize the whole research.

5.1 Discussion

ROI: To study traditional and modern parenting from youths' perspectives

According to the results collected in Chapter 4, there is not much difference between traditional and modern parenting from youths' perception. The results of top 5 characteristics in Question 7 and Question 17 are the same which are 'Love', 'More Freedom', 'Able to Voice Out', 'Patient', and 'Fair Punishment and Reward'. The characteristics of parenting style that they received, they are more willing to inherit these characteristics to their children in the future.

In addition, this result reflects that traditional parenting style in this generation may no longer be labeled as strict and heavy punishment. According to Lang & Diener (2021), parenting style may be affected by age, gender, beliefs, education background, knowledge, culture and more. As time passes, technology, society, communication, and relationships are also changing. According to Isha & Mamat (2019), parenting style and the behavior of children may be affected by parents' education level. Everyone is having more opportunities in education nowadays, which also means everyone is learning more knowledge compared with the past. When education

background, technology, mindset are improving, the term traditional parenting is no longer as traditional as how society labels and thinks in the past. It might change and have the same level and meaning with modern parenting style in the future according to the results shown in Chapter 4.

RO2: To study the most common parenting style used in Malaysia nowadays

From the results shown in Chapter 4, it shows the common parenting style practiced by Malaysian parents nowadays is permissive parenting style, and no longer the same with what the past studies had mentioned that authoritarian parenting style was the dominant parenting style in Asia (Mofrad & Uba, 2014). This result has been supported by past research done by Mofrad & Uba (2014), which found that Chinese parents are more permissive parenting, and it is related to this result as most of the respondents are Chinese.

Parenting Style in Future

Besides, the last part of Chapter 4 has come out with the result that youths tend to practice authoritative parenting style in the future when they become parents. Additionally, since the results mostly represent Chinese youth's perceptions, research also found that authoritative parenting style was the most common parenting style adopted by Chinese parents (Hong et.al, 2012). The results also concluded that youths' perception towards parenting style in the future is influenced by the parenting style they receive. As mentioned above, education level, knowledge and belief are the factors influencing parenting style (Lang & Diener, 2021). Youths are able to learn more compared with their parents, and this will help them to know how to balance and control the freedom, love, respect and power in parenting. Permissive parenting style is having high

responsiveness and low demandingness; however, authoritative parenting style has a more balance in responsiveness and demandingness. Hence, the findings show there might be more parents with authoritative parenting styles in the future.

5.2 Limitations

There are some limitations faced during the research process. Firstly, academic qualifications, which is also the current status of the respondents. The study is about the perceptions of youth towards traditional and modern parenting which means is targeting the public from aged 18-25. However, there is a lack of secondary students answering the survey. Different academic qualifications of respondents have different thoughts and points of view towards parenting. This might affect the results that were received from the research. In addition, the sample size of this research serves as one of the limitations. According to Malaysia-Total population aged 18-23 years (2020), the statistic shows the population of youths aged 18-23 in Malaysia is approximately 35 thousand. However, the sample of this research is able to receive 120 respondents, which is only 0.34% of the population. Thus, the results of this research are still far from representative of every youth in Malaysia due to the sample size being too small.

Moreover, lack of respondents from other ethnicities besides Chinese is also the limitation of this research. As mentioned in the title, this research is focusing in Malaysia which consists of multiracial, multicultural and multireligious. There are three main ethnicities in Malaysia, Malays, Chinese, and Indians, and different ethnicities have different beliefs and education backgrounds. According to the Demographic Statistics Fourth Quarter 2022, Malaysia (2023), 17.6 million (57.8%) of the Malaysia population is Malays, 6.9 million (22.7%) are Chinese, 2.0 million (6.6%) are Indians, and 0.2 million (0.7%) are others in the fourth quarter of 2022. In Chapter 4, 4.1 Table

3, it shows the majority of the respondents are Chinese, and only few are from Indians, Others and Malays. The lack of racial diversity may affect the results as different ethnicities have different ideas towards the traditional and modern parenting style in Malaysia. Hence, the results of this research may be more reliable if the level of the races of respondents is balanced.

5.3 Recommendations

Besides the limitations that are faced during the process, there are also some recommendations for this research. As mentioned in Chapter 3, this research is using a quantitative research method which is collecting the data by answering the Google survey form. It is being suggested to extend the research method not only focusing on quantitative but also qualitative by interviewing random samples of the respondents. It will help to get a deeper understanding about how Malaysian youths think about the traditional and modern parenting style as data collection is more flexible rather than just selecting the answers given by the researcher in the survey is one of the advantages of qualitative research methods (Stolle, 2022).

In 5.2 limitations has stated that one of the limitations is lack of the respondents from other ethnicities besides Chinese; therefore, it suggests that the level of the ethnicity of respondents is balanced will increase the reliability and accuracy of the results, it will be more representative of Malaysian youths. Furthermore, there is feedback from a few respondents who mentioned that the word using, such as 'young', is confusing to them because they do not know what age is considered young. Hence, the respondents are suggesting that stating the age clearly is easier for them to think about the question and situation.

5.4 Future Research

Since the research is regarding the parenting style in Malaysia, which might change rapidly with the passing of generations, there are some recommendations for the future study. A lot of previous research was focusing on the adolescents and population who aged under 25, and few studies were targeting those who are 25 years old and above. It is being suggested to target parents who were born in the 90s. This group of parents are more suitable to represent young adults who have faced the transitions between traditional and modern parenting style as the society and technology were also changing very fast during this time.

In addition, research regarding the differences of traditional and modern parenting style between Asian and Western countries is also one of the interesting areas to focus. There are many elements affecting parenting style, such as education background, age, culture, personality, beliefs, developmental history and gender, and there are the differences between different countries (Lang & Diener, 2021). It will be interesting to know about what youths from Asian and Western countries view towards traditional and modern parenting styles.

5.5 Conclusion

In conclusion, this research aims to study the traditional and modern parenting from youths' perspectives, and the most common parenting style used in Malaysia nowadays. In the end, the findings show there is a positive relationship between the parenting style received by youths and the parenting style they tend to practice in the future. The characteristics of parenting style youths receive, they are more likely to apply it in the future also. This also proves by using Social Learning Theory, which youths are influenced by their parents on parenting style. After doing the analysis, it has proved that parenting style is changing time by time and different generations. Not only that, the labels and terms which represent traditional parenting style and modern parenting style are also

changing due to the progress of society. In other words, there might be more authoritative parents in the future who practice love, patience, and fair reward and punishment. This research has indicated how youths view traditional and modern parenting style, and the parenting style they received. The recommendations for this research and future studies have been made to explore more ideas, and investigate more interesting areas.

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APPENDICES

Turnitin Report:

12
Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

Parents are the person who the child first comes into contact with when born. They play an important role in children's development in which the growing environment formed by parents, the attitude and behaviors of parents will influence children. Society always says that a child is born like a blank slate, what the final look on the blank paper is depends on his or her growing environment, person he or she meets, experience and decision making he or she makes, and emotion he or she has. Parents will be the first person they meet and family is the first place where they grow up. Parenting becomes more important as children are strong learners. The Bobo Doll Experiment which was conducted by Albert Bandura has shown how fast a child learns from adults. The children who participate in the experiment watch on the video how adults attack the bobo doll

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Survey Questionnaires:

A Study the Perceptions of Youths towards Traditional and Modern Approaches to Parenting in Malaysia

Greetings,

I am Yong Shan Ting, a Final Year student of the course Bachelor of Corporate Communication (Honours) at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) Sungai Long Campus. This survey is conducted for Final Year Project purpose.

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this research. The objectives of this research are to study traditional and modern parenting from youths' perspectives, and also to study the most common parenting style used in Malaysia nowadays.

Procedures

The survey questionnaire consists of 4 sections (Section A to Section D). Please answer **ALL** the questions in every section. The survey will take approximately 5-10 minutes to fill in.

Confidentiality

All information from your participation in this research will be kept strictly confidential. All data will be encrypted and protected; only aggregated data will be published with no personal identity and information.

The University Scientific and Ethical Review Committee has approved the project.

Voluntary Participation

Participation in this survey is completely voluntary. There is no right or wrong answer to any of the questions or statements asked in each section.

Kindly contact Ms Yong Shan Ting at @jenny010420@1utar.my if you have any clarifications. Thank you! :)

* 表示必填

1. Acknowledgement *

- I hereby consented and agreed to participate in this research.
- I disagree with participating in this research.

Section A: Demographic

*Choose **ONE** answer only

2. Age *

- 18 - 19
- 20 - 21
- 22 - 23
- 24 - 25

3. Academic Qualifications (Current status) *

- Secondary school student
- Bachelor of degree student
- Master student
- PhD student
- Employed

4. Ethnicity *

- Malay
- Chinese
- Indian
- Others

Section B: To understand common parenting methods used by Malaysian parents.

*Choose ONE answer that fits your experience

5. Q1: About family rules *

- My parents set the rules for me to follow strictly.
- My parents set a few rules and do not force us to follow strictly.
- My parents do not set any rules for me.
- My parents set clear rules and orders for me, and provide reasons for the actions.

6. Q2: When you get 80 marks in your exam paper in secondary school, what would be your parents' reaction? *

- 'You are not good enough, and you should get 100 marks'.
- 'Good job and keep it up'.
- They are busy and do not care about my results.
- 'Good job, let us learn the questions that you did wrong and correct them in order to avoid making the same mistake in the future'.

7. Q3: When you were young, you made mistakes, what would be your parents' reaction? *

- I get heavy punishment such as caning, standing against the wall and more.
- My parents guide me to learn from the mistake.
- My parents do not care or just ignore what I did.
- My parents will give reasons why they punish me, and they will guide me to learn from the mistake.

8. Q4: Freedom to make friends. *

- My parents will ask about the name and background of my friends, and even show them the picture.
- My parents will ask about the name of my friends only.
- My parents do not care what kind of friends I have made.
- My parents feel interested in my friends but they would not disturb how I get along with my friends.

9. Q5: How do your parents control your internet use when you are young? *

- My parents just allow me to use the computer to look up school work information, but not to play.
- My parents will have a filter on the computer and set the time of using the computer.
- My parents do not control me, I am allowed to use the computer whenever I want.
- My parents will have a filter on the computer, and we will have a discussion about what is and is not appropriate to look at.

10. Q6: Decision making when you are young. *

- My parents helped me to make all the decisions, and I was not allowed to argue or discuss with them.
- My parents helped me to make decisions, but I was allowed to voice my opinion.
- My parents prefer that I can make all the decisions by myself.
- My parents will discuss with me before making any decisions, we can voice our opinion and communicate with each other.

11. Q7: Which parenting style do you think is commonly used by your parents generation? (Can choose **MORE** than one) *

- Strict
- Love
- Less Freedom
- More Freedom
- Heavy Punishment
- Fair Reward and Punishment
- High Expectations
- Patient
- Cannot voice out and reject
- Able to voice out and discuss

Section C: To understand what youth's perception toward parenting

Q8 to Q10 (Choose **ONE** answer based on your preference): 1 - Strongly disagree, 2 - Disagree, 3 - Neither disagree nor agree, 4 - Agree, 5 - Strongly agree

12. Q8: Do you agree parents play important role in children growth? *

- 1 2 3 4 5
- Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree

13. Q9: Do you agree parenting style is important for children to grow? *

- 1 2 3 4 5
- Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree

14. Q10: Do you agree the parenting style that you received will affect how you treat your children in the future? *

- 1 2 3 4 5
- Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree

Section D: To understand how parents affect youth and how youth treat their children in the future

*Choose **ONE** answer based on your preference

15. Q11: If you are a parent, how would you set your family rules? *

- I will set the rules for my child to follow strictly.
- I will set a few rules and do not force my child to follow strictly.
- I will not set any rules for my child.
- I will set clear rules and orders for my child, and provide reasons for the actions.

16. Q12: If you are a parent, your child gets a 80 marks in his/her exam paper in secondary school, *

- 'You are not good enough, and you should get 100 marks'.
- 'Good job and keep it up'.
- You are busy and do not care about his/her results.
- 'Good job, let us learn the questions that you did wrong and correct them in order to avoid making the same mistake in the future'.

17. Q13: If you are a parent, when your child makes mistakes, *

- I will give heavy punishment such as caning, standing against the wall and more.
- I will guide him/her to learn from the mistake.
- I do not care or just ignore what he/she did.
- I will give reasons why I punish him/her, and I will guide him/her to learn from the mistake.

18. Q14: If you are a parent, when your child makes friends, *

- I will ask about the name and background of his/her friends, and even show me the picture.
- I will ask about the name of his/her friends only.
- I do not care what kind of friends he/she has made.
- I feel interested in his/her friends but I would not disturb how he/she gets along with his/her friends.

19. Q15: If you are a parent, how will you control your child's internet use when he/she is young? *

- I will just allow him/her to use the computer to look up school work information, but not to play.
- I will have a filter on the computer and set the time of using the computer.
- I do not control my child, he/ she is allowed to use the computer whenever he/she wants.
- I will have a filter on the computer, and we will have a discussion about what is and is not appropriate to look at.

20. Q16: If you are a parent, what will you do when you make a decision for your child? *

- I helped my child to make all the decisions, and he/she is not allowed to argue or discuss with me since he/she is small and does not know much.
- I helped my child to make decisions, but he/she is allowed to voice my opinion.
- I prefer that my child can make all the decisions by himself/herself.
- I will discuss with my child before making any decisions, we can voice our opinion and communicate with each other.

21. Q17: Which parenting style do you think is commonly used in the **NEW** generation? (Can choose **MORE** than one) *

- Strict
- Love
- Less Freedom
- More Freedom
- Heavy Punishment
- Fair Reward and Punishment
- High Expectations
- Patient
- Cannot voice out and reject
- Able to voice out and discuss

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