

FILIAL PARENTING STYLE



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Wednesday, 7 May 2014
ACAP 2014

Content

- Background
- Existing Parenting Styles
- Proposed Filial Parenting Style
- Conditions for Filial Parenting
- Advantages and Disadvantages
- Studies
- Conclusion

Background

- Observably in small families, especially Chinese Singaporeans
 - ▣ Suspect the same for other cultures in Singapore and other countries
- Creating a unique breed of people—personalities, attitudes, thinking, emotions and behaviours
- Relatively different from previous generations
- A concern for everyone and system



Existing parenting styles

- Authoritarian
 - ▣ low parental responsiveness and high parental demand
 - ▣ follow parental orders; failure means punishment
 - ▣ Results: children obedient and proficient, but are less happy, less socially competent, and low in self-esteem.
- Authoritative
 - ▣ high parental responsiveness and high parental demand
 - ▣ there are rules, guidelines and clear standards
 - ▣ parents are assertive and approachable; failure to meet expectations, parents are nurturing than punishing
 - ▣ Results: A more democratic, or child-centred type of development—the child may assert own sense of independence, and may have a higher degree of emotional self-control

Existing parenting styles

□ Permissive

- high parental responsiveness and low parental demand
- parents rarely discipline children
- Results: children are low in happiness, self-regulation, and control; likely to experience problems with authority and tend to perform poorly in school

□ Uninvolved/Neglect

- low parental responsiveness and low parental demand
- parents have little communication with children
- parents fulfil children's basic needs such as shelter, food and spending money, but generally detached from their life
- in the extreme, parents may reject or neglect the needs of their children
- Results: Children with tendency for lack of self-control, with low self-esteem and is less competence than their peers

Proposed
Filial
Parenting
Style

Constructs of:

Filial piety

maintaining unconditional regard and care for parents, and grandparents; upholding the family's name; worshiping one's ancestry

Face

equated with reputation

Parental love

natural parental responsibilities



Both parents be present; one must be working

Conditions for Filial Parenting

One or two children

All in the family are normal healthy individuals

Presence of filial piety

Presence of face and filial parental love

and a competitive environment

**Secondary
Conditions
for Filial
Parenting**

The presence of a significant other

A metropolitan environment

Governmental policies

Ease of communication

How would Filial Parents perceive the Self, Others and the World?

- Filial parents would perceive the unfortunate self as, “I am myself because of what I have been deprived”; “I am myself because of what I have not achieved”; and for those who made it successfully as, “I’ve worked hard all my life to be in this state”.



How would Filial Parents perceive the Self, Others and the World?



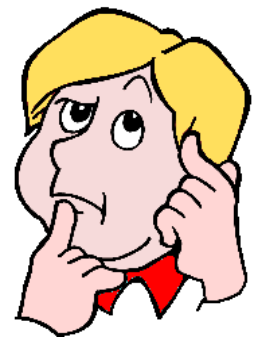
- Filial parents would perceive the fortunate others as, “They are lucky to have this and that”, and the unfortunate others, “I will not have my children go through the tough life of the past”.

How would Filial Parents perceive the Self, Others and the World?



- Filial parents would perceive the world as, “It is complex given today’s conditions,” thus, “It is unsafe and uncertain out there for my children”, so, “I must protect them from dangers and uncertainties all the time with all I can”.

How would Filial Parents think?



- What I know of the past, my children must know.
- That is, what risks and dangers I have experienced, they must not fall into them.
- What good things that I have learn in life, they must know and use them.
- What I have now, my children will have.
- What I don't have, I must try to provide them with.
- What I see of the future, they must be prepared for.

What would Filial Parents do?

- Give in sufficiently to children's needs and demands
- Indulge children for optimal growth and development
- Help children as much as possible
- Look after children into adulthood



Advantages and Disadvantages

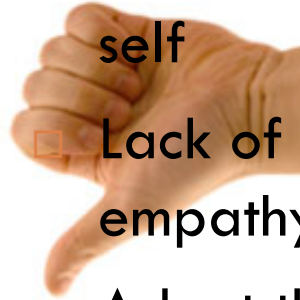
Advantages

- Children achieved sufficient education
- Children develop to filial parents' wishes
- Little or no sibling rivalry
- and filial piety is seemingly maintained



□ Disadvantages

- Loss of natural childhood
- Loss of expression to develop self
- Lack of awareness and empathy of others
- Adopt the entitlement attitude
- Loss of natural filial piety
- and Lack of independence for parents and children



Preliminary Study

- On a class of over 100 undergraduates at the Singapore campus of the Australian James Cook University in early 2013.
- Of the Chinese Singaporean undergraduates, the majority agreed to practising filial piety at home, considering face-saving as very important to uphold the family's name as the family comes first, and education is featuring high on the agenda of upbringing of children in the households.
- Surprisingly, the same findings were found among the majority of non-Chinese Singaporean and Indian undergraduates in the sample.
- Some of the Malay Singaporeans undergraduates expressed concerns for high regard and respect of one's family akin to the concept of filial piety.

Research Project

by four research
undergraduates of
James Cook
University in the
later part of 2013



Research Project (cont'd)

- Developed the 40-item Filial Parenting Questionnaire (FPQ)
 - ▣ consisted of 5 scales (Values, Aims, Beliefs, Filial Parenting leads to Filial Piety, and Effects of Filial Parenting)
 - ▣ and 27 subscales
- FPQ administered to 93 parents from preschools, childcare and family service centres across SG
- Results
 - ▣ showed that 32 of the 40 items (questions) were reliable and valid
 - ▣ that the *filial parenting* style did exist among Singaporeans; interestingly, not only with Chinese Singaporeans, but also with Malay and Indian Singaporeans.

Samples of Filial Parenting Questionnaire (FPQ)

Scale	Subscale	Questions (items)
Values	Face-saving	I feel ashamed when my child performs below my expectations
Aims	Parent responsible for future Success of child	I am responsible for my child's future
Beliefs	Money is well invested in children	The more I spend on my children, the better their chances of success are.
Filial parenting leads to filial piety	Children reciprocate parents in the future	I believe that the efforts in raising my child will be repaid in kind when I get older
Effects of filial parenting	Overprotective parents	I ensure the safety of my child before he is allowed to wander about

Future Research

Investigate the following related areas:

- Confucianist filial piety and filial parental love
- Primary and secondary conditions
- Perception of filial parents
- Advantages and disadvantages
- The outcomes, including mental health, and implications
- and the extent of *filial parenting* among Asian parents

Conclusion



Concern for many --
parents, teachers,
grandparents, doctors, allied
health practitioners, clinicians,
policy makers, and researchers