

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN CHILD REARING PRACTICES IN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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ABSTRACT

Much has been written about child rearing practices, the right way, the wrong way, the American way, the Nigerian way, the Kenyan or the Japanese ways etc. Frankly, child rearing practices change from culture to culture, from generation to generation and from social class to social class. What is perfectly acceptable in one culture or decade, may be seen as shocking in another. As American society and all other societies' worldwide become increasingly more global and less homogenized, understanding and accepting cultural differences in child rearing will become more important. Juvenile delinquency is one of the most serious problems plaguing contemporary societies in different countries across the world. For decades, society has been seeking effective ways to address and resolve the issue, by developing different theories accounting for the progress of juvenile delinquency. One of the powerful factors related to the problem are child rearing practices applied by parents and approved by society. The analysis of authoritative, permissive, and authoritarian parenting styles and the effects they have on children's social behavior in developed and developing countries demonstrate significant differences between the groups of countries and the connection between child rearing practices and risks of developing juvenile delinquency.