

# Understanding Adolescents' Perception of Parenting: A Case Study in Bandung

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## Abstract

**Background** - Adolescents, defined by the United Nations as individuals aged 10 to 19 years, are a significant population group, numbering 1.3 billion worldwide. Adolescence is a complex period of transition, characterized by rapid physical, cognitive, and psychosocial growth. These developments affect the way adolescents feel, think, make decisions, and interact with many things. This transition is often described as a period of "storm and stress," which emphasizes the important role of parents in supporting adolescents' development. Diana Baumrind's theory states that there are four parenting styles, which are authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful, that influence children's emotions.

**Research Urgency** - This study explores adolescents' perceptions of parental treatment, revealing the importance of supportive, non-comparative, and developmentally appropriate parenting styles in fostering healthy adolescent growth and serving as a basis for effective family-based interventions.

**Research Objective** - The purpose of this study is to explore adolescents' perceptions of the parental treatment they receive, aiming to understand how different parenting behaviors influence adolescents' emotional responses and relationships within the family context.

**Research Methods** - This study used a survey, involving 120 adolescent respondents in Bandung City, consisting of 40 males and 76 females. Data were collected through questionnaires and analyzed descriptively.

**Result Findings** - The study showed that most of the respondents were 14 years old and lived with their families. Although most adolescents feel closer to their mothers, adolescent girls tend to confide in friends more often than their mothers when facing problems. The findings also show that parents still tend to compare their children with other children, even with neighboring children. Adolescents expect parents not to compare them with siblings and to always support their activities.

**Research Conclusion** - Adolescents as individuals who grow and develop, have needs that must be met by parents. They, by following their developmental patterns, want to be treated as people who have authority, want to be heard, want to be cared for, and want to make parents a place to share. Parents must provide the parenting style that their children need according to their stage of development.

**Research Novelty/ Contribution** - This study provides insight into adolescents' perceptions of parental treatment, which can be the basis for the development of more effective programs and interventions in supporting adolescents' development.

**Keywords:** adolescents perception, supporting adolescents, parenting, parental treatment

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## INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a developmental period characterized by significant biological, cognitive, and psychosocial development. Adolescents also increasingly seek autonomy from parents as they establish peer relationships and romantic relationships (Sierra Hernandez & Moretti, 2020). During adolescence, fundamental biological changes known as puberty occur in the body, transforming a child into a biological adult capable of reproduction. Puberty is a gradual and sequential process that takes place during adolescence and encapsulates a variety of complex biological processes (Reiches & Ellison, 2022). The transition from childhood to adolescence is often described as a period of “storm and stress”, during which individuals navigate a complex emotional landscape and identity formation (Harmalis et al., 2023).

Adolescents also develop the ability of abstract thinking, opinions are expressed using abstract concepts, and mental processes such as generalization, deduction, and induction. The way of thinking that is typical of childhood does not change into an adult way of thinking suddenly. Adolescents have a way of thinking in which they develop unique theories and become excessive defenders of these theories, believing that their way of thinking is the most correct (Emma L. Peterson, 2024). Adolescence is the phase of life between childhood and adulthood, from 10 to 19 years of age. It is a unique stage of human development and an important time to lay the foundations of good health. Adolescents experience rapid physical, cognitive, and psychosocial growth. This affects the way they feel, think, make decisions, and interact with things around them (WHO, 2024).

There are 1.3 billion adolescents in the world today (Unicef, 2023). Indonesia has 17 percent adolescents of the total population, with a composition of 48% female and 52% male. The largest distribution of adolescents lives in West Java (Unicef, 2022). Some adolescents are particularly vulnerable to poor health and developmental outcomes as a result of individual and environmental factors, including marginalization, exploitation, and living without parental support (Ariansyah & Siagian, 2025; L. Li et al., 2022; Qian et al., 2024). Based on a systematic review in 2024, global data shows that around 4.7% of children and 8.9% of adolescents experience social anxiety. Social anxiety is caused by parenting styles: excessive control & low warmth, bullying, childhood trauma, gadget use, and environmental factors (COVID-19) (Ilyas & Khan, 2023; Nader et al., 2022; Zapf et al., 2024).

Adolescents' relationships with their parents have a major impact on many different elements of their lives, such as friendships, social support, and how they deal with the hormonal and psychological changes that are characteristic of this stage of development (Abidin et al., 2023). Research in Denpasar on junior high and high school students showed that 6.99% of respondents reported conflicts with their mothers, while 10.36% reported conflicts with their fathers, indicating that the majority of adolescents experience minor conflicts with their parents (Vision et al., 2024). Parenting is most often conceptualized with two dimensions, those are parental acceptance and involvement, as well as close supervision, which creates four types of parenting patterns mentioned as authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglect (Arafat et al., 2020). Parents are the first teachers of their children. They play an important role during the process of the child's growth process (Candelanza et al., 2021). Parenting patterns include family environment, teaching attitudes, norms, and models. Their behavior can significantly affect children's lives, as well as their views and beliefs about life. Children's personality also determines their socialization, adaptation, problem-solving ability, etc. (Ferreira et al., 2023).

Parenting patterns refer to the typical ways parents think, feel, and behave when it comes to raising children. Devaney et al., (2023) while another definition states that parenting patterns as the overall climate of interaction between parents and children It is a set or system of behaviors that describe the relationship between parents and children in various situations and create a positive atmosphere through communication (Candelanza et al., 2021). Parenting patterns play an integral role in the development of a child. It affects the growth of the child, which fosters them both in childhood and adulthood (Candelanza et al., 2021). The most widely recognized category of parenting style is Diana Baumrind's theory, most of her research focuses on two dimensions of parenting style: authority and affection (Devaney et al., 2023). Authority refers to the extent to which parents try to control their children's behavior by setting rational standards of behavior. Affection or responsiveness refers to the amount and manner of love expressed to the child and acceptance of the child's point of view.

Based on these dimensions, Diana Baumrind's pillar theory emphasizes that children's behavior is related to parenting styles as they grow and interact with new people. This framework uses three parenting patterns: authoritative parenting, authoritarian parenting, and permissive parenting. Authoritative parents exercise

control and make demands by considering the needs of the child. Authoritative parents will respond and support children, even compromising if the situation requires. On the other hand, authoritarian parents control and demand, and never consider responding, supporting, or compromising with the child's needs. Finally, the parenting pattern is permissive parenting. Permissive parents respond, support, and compromise to the child's needs, but do not control or demand (Candelanza et al., 2021). Parents who have family members in adolescence play a fundamental role, as they will assist adolescents to be able to adapt and be independent in adolescence (Mendes, 2024). Each parent has a different approach to interacting with and guiding their children. Children's morals, principles, and behavior are generally formed through this bond (Xu et al., 2018; Yin et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2023).

The parenting received will be perceived differently by adolescents. Perception is the awareness of external objects through the senses or the mind's awareness of internally generated ideas or ideas received through the senses. thus, perception is a medium for knowing objects outside the self or internally generated objects in the mind (Scott & Liu, 2024). There have been many studies on the factors causing social anxiety in adolescents and intervention efforts involving parents, schools, and the community. Therefore, this study aims to examine the perspectives of adolescents and their expectations of parents, particularly in terms of parenting styles. Most research on parenting focuses on the parents' perspective, while few explore how adolescents themselves interpret their parenting style. Therefore, this study aims to understand how adolescents view the parenting they receive. This research is expected to contribute to developing parenting models that are more productive and responsive as well and it can help improve the quality of parenting.

## METHOD

The type of research used is descriptive quantitative. The population is adolescents who are studying in SMPN 35 Bandung. The sample size was 120 adolescents, consisting of 44 males and 76 females, with an age range of 13-17 years. The sampling technique is accidental sampling until the expected sample is fulfilled. The research instrument referred to several studies on parenting patterns received by adolescents. Data collection is done by filling out instruments in the form of Google Forms containing questions about the perspective of parental parenting received so far by adolescents. The instruments have been tested for validity and reliability. Bias control was not performed because the respondents who completed the instrument were those who met the inclusion criteria. The analysis used proportions and differences in perceptions between male adolescents and female adolescents towards parental parenting.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Adolescents begin to develop their identity, need for independence, and desire to be recognized within their social circle. These characteristics make them more critical in assessing their parents' parenting styles. Adolescents who are developing autonomy tend to be more sensitive to authoritarian or controlling parenting styles and conversely will appreciate democratic parenting styles that allow them to participate in decision-making. Thus, adolescents' perceptions of parenting are not only influenced by their parents' practices, but also by their stage of development and psychosocial needs.

In addition to developmental factors, who adolescents live with at home also greatly influences how they perceive the parenting they receive. Adolescents who live with both biological parents usually experience consistency in parenting and stronger emotional attachment, so they tend to view parenting more positively. Conversely, adolescents who live with a single parent, stepparent, or extended family may face different dynamics, such as differing rules, role conflicts, or even feelings of marginalization.

**Table 1.** Respondent Characteristic

Age	Male		Female	
	F	%	F	%
12 Years	10	22,7	17	22,4
13 Years	14	31,8	28	36,8
14 Years	12	27,3	22	28,9
15 Years	7	16,0	6	7,9

16 Years	1	2,2	3	4,0
Living				
Biological Parent	28	63,6	59	77,6
Father's Family	11	25,0	12	15,8
Mother's Family	5	11,4	5	6,6
	44	100,0	76	100,0

Table 1 shows that most of the adolescent respondents, both male and female, are at the age of 13, while more respondents are currently living with their biological parents than living with their father's family or their mother's family. Adolescence has three stages: early adolescence (10-14 years old), the dominant issues are the new body and pubertal changes, and preoccupation with normality. Same-sex peers become very important, and high physical activity and mood swings also occur. In middle adolescence (15-17 years), the main focus is on achieving independence, especially from parents, and establishing oneself among peers as a valuable individual. Late adolescence (18-24 years), orientation to the future, with emphasis on defining one's functional role in terms of work, lifestyle, and relationship plans (Wani, 2022).

Adolescent development, by following Erikson's theory, states that human psychosocial development has eight distinct stages, consisting of five stages up to the age of 18 and three further stages thereafter, up to adulthood. Erikson states that personality develops in a predetermined manner and builds upon each previous stage. This is called the epigenetic principle (Gabriel et al., 2022). Pubertal maturation creates dynamic changes in the parent-child relationship. For many parents, the transition from parenting a child to parenting an adolescent can be stressful, uncertain, and vulnerable (Flaherty & Sadler, 2022; Lanjekar et al., 2022).

Adolescents are in a dynamic phase of development, making the need for someone to confide in very important. Closeness to parents still plays a major role because they are seen as the main source of emotional support, guidance, and protection. Adolescents who have a warm relationship with their parents tend to be more open in expressing their problems, feel safer, and have lower levels of anxiety. In addition to parents, peers play a crucial role in the lives of teenagers. Friendships provide a sense of togetherness, acceptance, and understanding that is in line with their life experiences. Friends are often seen as easier to confide in because they are in similar situations, so teenagers feel more understood. In addition, some teenagers also look for other figures outside of their parents and friends, such as older siblings, teachers, counsellors, or figures they trust, to confide in.

**Table 2.** Teenagers' Perception of People who feel close, have close friends and Whom to Complain Problems

	Male		Female	
	F	%	F	%
<b>People who feel close</b>				
Father	5	11,4	4	5,3
Mother	26	59,1	56	73,7
Sibling	7	15,9	10	13,1
Friend	5	11,4	4	5,3
Not Anyone	1	2,2	2	2,6
<b>Having Closed Friend</b>				
Yes	37	84,1	71	93,4
No	7	15,9	5	6,6
<b>To whom to complain about problems</b>				
Father	5	11,4	3	3,9
Mother	17	38,7	31	40,9
Sibling	3	6,9	3	3,9
Friend	10	20,5	27	35,5
Not anyone	9	20,5	12	15,8
	44	100,0	76	100,0

Table 2 illustrates that the person who is perceived to be closest to both male and female adolescents is the mother, while adolescents' closeness to friends and closeness to father have the same percentage in both adolescent boys and adolescent girls. Almost all teenagers, both boys and girls, have a best friend, Although

female respondents felt closer to their mothers when they had problems, almost all of them said that friends were the people to complain to, followed by the second most, respondents who complained about problems to their mothers and some did not talk about problems to anyone or kept the problems to themselves as much as 20 % for boys and 15,8% for girls, very few respondents complained about problems to siblings. In contrast to boys, almost a third of respondents made their mothers the person to complain to, while a fifth of respondents complained about their problems to friends, and another fifth of respondents chose to remain silent or did not talk about their problems to anyone. A few of the respondents complained about their problems to their father.

Families are systems of interconnected and interdependent individuals, none of which can be understood in isolation from the system. Family systems theory places a primary focus on the behavioral exchanges that occur at any given moment in the interactions between family members (Pfeiffer & TIn-Albon, 2022). Interactions among family members create a unique environment that shapes individual experience and development. Family dynamics play an important role in psychological adjustment during the transition to adulthood (Zhang, 2021). The family is a very important place for individual socialization. The family is the earliest and lifelong environment with which an individual comes into close contact. Among various family factors, parenting pattern is the most significant factor affecting the development of individual self-control ability (Fu, 2024).

The presence of parents in shaping children's personality, social skills, and independence is very important. Effective and positive parenting can help children develop social skills, control emotions, and build healthy relationships with others. Parents who have social capital can provide social support and access to resources, thereby influencing the norms that shape parenting patterns (Ma, 2023). The results of a study conducted by I-NAMHS.(Indonesia National Adolescent Mental Health Survey) showed that 62% of adolescents complained to family members and 42% to friends about their concerns or problems. (Indonesia National Adolescent Mental Health Survey, 2022). One study showed that children's and adolescents' perceptions of fathers and mothers in the aspects of parental involvement and positive communication showed that mothers scored statistically better than fathers (Ferreira et al., 2023). The research suggests that individual factors, in the form of openness to experience, and contextual factors, in the form of engagement in creative hobbies, contribute to the development of divergent thinking skills in mid-adolescence and young adulthood. Time spent on creative hobbies encourages openness to experience, which enhances divergent thinking and is an important component of adolescents' creative potential (Asquith et al., 2024).

Adolescents' perceptions of the parenting styles they receive vary greatly, depending on their subjective experiences in interacting with their parents. Adolescents who feel that they are treated with attention, given space to express their opinions, and receive emotional support usually assess their parents' parenting styles as positive, democratic, and constructive. Conversely, adolescents who experience authoritarian or permissive parenting tend to view it as unsupportive, restrictive, or even oppressive. These perceptions are important because adolescents' daily experiences influence how they develop their identity, self-confidence, and social relationships outside the home.

**Table 3.** Adolescents' Perception of Parenting

Aspects	Male		Female	
	F	%	F	%
<b>Given the freedom to choose an adolescence's hobby</b>				
Always	28	63,6	51	67,1
Sometimes	16	36,4	25	32,9
<b>Parents listen to adolescent's problem</b>				
Always	24	54,5	45	59,2
Sometimes	13	29,5	24	31,6
Never	7	16,0	7	9,2
<b>Parents respect adolescence</b>				
Always	35	79,5	56	73,7
Sometimes	9	20,5	18	23,7
Never	0	0,0	2	2,6
<b>Parents blame adolescence</b>				



Always	9	20,4	12	15,8
Sometimes	28	63,6	46	60,5
Never	7	15,0	18	23,7
<b>Parents Compare with Siblings</b>				
Always	8	18,2	18	23,7
Sometimes	14	31,8	28	36,8
Never	22	50,0	30	39,5
<b>Parents Compare with neighbor's child</b>				
Always	2	4,5	11	14,5
Sometimes	10	22,7	16	21,1
Never	32	72,8	49	64,4
<b>parents chatting one-on-one with teenager</b>				
Always	15	34,1	42	55,3
Sometimes	15	34,1	19	25,0
Never	14	31,8	15	19,7
	44	100,0	76	100,0

In Table 3, it is clear that male and female adolescents have different views on the parental treatment received. More than half of both male and female adolescents said that parents always support the hobbies that respondents choose, but almost close to a third of female adolescents stated that parents sometimes support the hobbies carried out by adolescents, while in male adolescents, parents sometimes support hobbies as much as 36%. More than half of both male and female adolescents stated that parents listened to their problems, but some parents did not listen to adolescents' problems, which was shown by twice as many male adolescents compared to female adolescents. Most adolescents stated that parents respected them, although there were parents who sometimes respected them, and even female adolescents said 2,6% of parents did not respect adolescents. Parents sometimes blame adolescents, which was expressed more by both male and female adolescents, while parents who do not blame adolescents were expressed by 15% of male adolescents and 23.7% of female adolescents.

The treatment of parents who sometimes compare children was felt three times as much by female adolescents compared to male adolescents. Another treatment that adolescents felt was that parents sometimes compared adolescents with neighboring children, around 20% of adolescents. More than the majority of female adolescents stated that their parents invited them to talk together, this was inversely proportional to 31,8% of male adolescents stated that their parents did not invite them to talk together, although there were 34% of adolescents said their parents invited them to talk together.

Perception is a process of noticing and selecting, organizing, and interpreting environmental stimuli because each of the five senses a person has is faced with so many environmental stimuli. The sensory quality of the five senses represents the foundation of cognition and itself determines the further processing of sensory data, and plays a decisive role in influencing the final judgment (Démuth, 2013; Walsh et al., 2020; William Fish, 2021; Zacks, 2020). The Bayesian approach to perception is principled, coherent, and elegant. Bayesian inference provides optimal statistical inference about unknown properties given stochastic processes. Bayesian theory reveals that the nervous system uses perceptual information as if it can process information optimally according to a Bayesian inference model. The majority of models propose how the nervous system processes discrete cues (flashes of light, auditory beeps), but models have also been proposed for, for example, learning in perception (Beierholm, 2022; Inês Hipólito, Kirchhoff, 2023).

The results showed that the perception of hierarchical social support for adolescents was formed by the source of support (family, friends, and teachers) and further formed the type of support in the form of emotional, material, and informational. This research provides a theoretical basis for future studies on social support in adolescents and the potential for educational interventions to improve social support for adolescents (Walsh et al., 2020). Factors that influence perception are health, physiological conditions, the culture in which a person is raised, social/professional roles taken, thinking abilities, and the physical environment and surroundings. These are some of the circumstances that affect how to see, hear, feel, and react to people or things (Asquith et al., 2024; Schalbetter et al., 2022; Walsh et al., 2020; Zacks, 2020).

Adolescence is a time of dramatic developmental transition, from the hormonal, bodily, and brain changes associated with puberty to an increasingly complex social world. The hormonal surges and physical maturation associated with pubertal development in adolescence are believed to impact various aspects of brain development, social cognition, and peer relationships. (Olivia Best, 2021; Pfeifer & Allen, 2021). These puberty-related effects may combine with other non-pubertal influences on brain maturation to alter adolescents' social perceptions and experiences, which in turn continue to shape brain development through transactional processes (Pfeifer & Allen, 2021).

The prefrontal cortex (PFC) is a cortical brain region that regulates various cognitive functions. One of the hallmarks of the PFC is its protracted adolescent maturation, which is necessary for acquiring mature cognitive abilities in adulthood. Microglia, immune cells in the brain, contribute to this maturation process. A transient, cell-specific deficiency of prefrontal microglia in adolescence is sufficient to drive the emergence of adult PFC-related impairments in cognitive function, dendritic complexity, and synaptic structure. While prefrontal microglia deficiency in adolescence also alters the excitatory-inhibitory balance in adult prefrontal circuits. Adolescence is a sensitive period for prefrontal microglia to act in cognitive development. (Schalbetter et al., 2022). Research has shown parenting differences within different cultures in various dimensions of parenting including psychological control, autonomy support, and specialized techniques. In addition, there are cultural differences regarding the impact of parenting patterns on adolescents (Chen et al., 2021). Parenting patterns are psychological constructs that parents use in parenting their children. The quality of parenting is more important than how much time parents spend with their children. Children go through different stages of development, so parents create their parenting patterns by combining factors that evolve. Parental care has a great influence on child development (Lhendup, 2024).

Parenting patterns significantly influence the development of personality, and personality is the main driving factor that influences a person's behavior patterns. The development of self-esteem, which is a key component of the self-system, is not only directly related to adolescents' mental health, but also widely affects adolescents' cognition, motivation, emotion, and social behavior as a mediating personality variable (Du et al., 2022). Parents believe that one of their children has better behavior, so they give different treatment to their children and make comparisons with other children (Pond, 2018). Comparative treatment of differences in children can have positive or negative effects. (Yu-Chin Her, et al., 2021). *The Family Resilience Assessment Scale* (FRAS), which consists of five subscales such as family communication and connectedness, positive outlook and problem-solving, acceptance and flexibility, social resources, and family spirituality, is a reliable and valid tool for family resilience (Gusarova et al., 2024).

The experience of teenagers getting angry at their parents is a fairly common phenomenon, given that their developmental phase is marked by a search for identity, a need for autonomy, and increased emotional sensitivity. Some of the things that often make teenagers angry with their parents include authoritarian attitudes and a lack of freedom, differences of opinion regarding socializing or education, a lack of respect for teenagers' privacy, and judgmental or critical communication. In addition, inconsistent rules at home, comparisons with siblings or peers, and a lack of emotional support are also common triggers for conflict. These situations can lead to feelings of frustration, misunderstanding, or even a lack of appreciation by parents.

**Table 4.** Adolescents's Feelings of Anger towards Parents and Reasons for Anger towards Parents

	Male		Female	
	F	%	F	%
<b>Have Feelings of Anger towards Parents</b>				
Always	1	2,3	10	13,1
Sometimes	15	34,1	32	42,1
No	28	63,6	34	44,8
<b>Reasons for Anger towards Parents</b>				
Comparing with Siblings	14	31,8	27	35,5
Hard to Educate	4	9,1	10	13,2
Different Opinions	6	13,7	9	11,8
Often Blames	10	22,7	16	21,1
Disrupting Activities	6	13,6	8	10,5
Others	4	9,1	6	7,9
	44	100,00	76	100,0

Based on Table 4, male adolescents stated that they were sometimes angry with their parents, but more did not have feelings of anger towards their parents, in contrast to female adolescents, who more often felt angry with their parents than did not have feelings of anger towards their parents. The reason given by adolescents when experiencing anger towards their parents is due to their parents compare adolescents with their siblings. This was stated by almost a third of male and female adolescents. The second most common reason was that parents often blamed hard-to-educate children was 22,7 % of statements from male respondents, while according to female adolescents was 22,1%. Adolescent females reported more intense parent-child conflict than males during early adolescence (Mastrotheodoros et al., 2019). Despite similar levels of conflict frequency, and found the association between more negative aspects of parenting (e.g., low parental warmth and high parental control) and internalization of problems (i.e., anxiety and depressive symptoms) was found to be stronger in middle adolescence. Studies found a stronger association between parental support during stress and physiological stress responses in girls who were at an earlier, rather than later, stage of puberty (Wright et al., 2023)

Children everywhere need acceptance (love) from parents and other attachment figures. When these needs are not met, children around the world, regardless of cultural, gender, age, or ethnic variations, tend to self-report certain forms of psychological maladjustment. Parental acceptance and rejection theory (PART) states that the quality of the parent-child emotional bond is on a continuum from acceptance to rejection, which influences psychological adjustment across the lifespan, PART consists of warmth/affection (or coldness/lack of affection), hostility/aggression, indifference/neglect, and rejection (Theodoropoulos & Giotsa, 2020). Research conducted in Portugal showed that adolescents in 9th grade felt or perceived more rejection from their parents than adolescents in 7th grade (Reboredo, 2020).

Parents serve as primary role models for children because from an early age, children learn through observation and imitation. The values, attitudes, and behaviors that parents display in their daily lives are easily picked up and internalized by children. Parental behavior patterns not only serve as guidelines, but also as references for children in socializing and building relationships with their environment. The role of parents as role models becomes increasingly important during adolescence, when children are searching for their identity and developing personal values. Teenagers often judge the consistency between their parents' words and actions as the basis for their trust and respect.

**Table 5.** Teenagers Use Parents as Role Models

	Male		Female	
	F	%	F	%
<b>Father becomes a role model</b>				
Ya	40	90,9	72	94,7
No	4	9,1	4	5,3
<b>Mother becomes a role model.</b>				
Yes	40	90,9	71	93,4
No	4	9,1	5	6,6
	44	100,0	76	100,0

Table 5 illustrates that all adolescents look up to their mothers and fathers. Parents play an important role in shaping adolescents' behavior and well-being. Adolescents' perceptions of parents' physical activity are positively associated with adolescents' physical activity levels (Sánchez-Zamorano et al., 2020). Parental attitudes and attachment patterns significantly influence adolescents' self-perceptions, with secure attachment directly predicting positive self-perceptions (Keizer et al., 2020). Parental influence, communication, sense of humor, and low psychological control, contribute to adolescent life satisfaction. Adolescent self-esteem increases due to the relationship between parenting practices and adolescent life satisfaction (Pérez-Fuentes et al., 2019; Ridao et al., 2021). Parents' perceptions of their behavior towards their children are more positive than children's perceptions of parental behavior (Liu et al., 2025; Theodoropoulos & Giotsa, 2020).

Every child basically has expectations of their parents' behaviour in carrying out parenting. These expectations arise because children see their parents as the main figures responsible for providing guidance, protection, and affection. Children, especially teenagers, want parenting that not only provides rules and



boundaries, but also accommodates their need for freedom, trust, and respect for their opinions. Children's expectations of their parents' behaviour in parenting are also closely related to their emotional needs and psychosocial development. Children hope that their parents will be able to show consistency, empathy, and be good listeners when they face problems. Warmth, openness, and supportive communication are forms of parental behaviour that are expected to reduce conflict and increase emotional attachment.

**Table 6.** Adolescents' Expectations of Parental Behavior

Expected Parental Behavior	Male		Female	
	F	%	F	%
More attentive/ caring	3	11,4	4	5,3
Not comparing children	13	29,6	23	30,3
Listening to Children	6	13,6	9	11,8
Not Demanding Children by following under Parents' Wishes	4	9,1	9	11,8
Do not be angry often	3	6,8	7	9,2
Supporting Children	6	13,6	9	11,8
Understand Children's Feelings	4	9,1	8	10,6
Do not restrain children	3	6,8	7	9,2
	44	100,0	76	100,0

Table 6 explains that both male and female adolescent respondents expect their parents not to compare with siblings by 30%, while other adolescents expect parents to provide support to adolescents, listen to children, and not demand children to follow under parents' wishes. The quality of the parent-child relationship is influenced by parents' self-perception and investment in their child's development (Wang et al., 2022) argue that parents with strong self-perception are more likely to engage in effective parenting behaviors, which positively influence children's developmental outcomes. Conversely, when parents misinterpret their child's needs or behaviors, this can lead to misunderstandings and conflict (S. Li et al., 2020). These findings highlight the importance of warm, autonomy-supportive parenting practices in promoting positive psychological outcomes for children and young adults (Jensen & Jorgensen-Wells, 2025). One of the activities that can improve parent-child relationships with shared literacy and better communication (S. Li et al., 2020).

Parenting styles are often perceived differently by boys and girls due to differences in needs, psychological characteristics, and social expectations attached to each gender. These differences in perspective show that gender factors can influence how adolescents assess the parenting styles they receive from their parents, both in terms of emotional support and behavioural control. Gender differences in perceiving parenting styles are important because they can provide a more comprehensive picture of family dynamics. Data on these differences can help parents and practitioners understand that the same approach may not necessarily be effective when applied to children of different genders.

**Table 7.** Differences in Adolescent Male and Female Perceptions of Parenting Style

Gender	Number	Mean	St Dev	Sig 2 tail
Male	44	18,86	2,906	<b>0,88</b>
Female	76	18,76	3,787	
Total	120			

Table 7 illustrates that the mean perception scores of male and female adolescents only have a difference of 0.1 points. Based on the statistical T-test, there is no significant difference between the perceptions of adolescent females and adolescent males. This may be due to inequality in the sample size, where female respondents are almost twice as many as male respondents. There are differences in perceptions between female and male adolescents, which can be seen in the previous table: more female adolescents sometimes get angry with their parents than male adolescents, because female adolescents are more sensitive. In this study, both males and female felt closer to their mothers.

The study shows that adolescent females and males interpret their parents' attitudes differently, females are more sensitive to warmth and emotional support, while males are more likely to pay attention to the freedom and control given by their parents (Dittman et al., 2023). Another study has found that adolescents have different perceptions of fathers and mothers based on their gender. Adolescent females are more connected to their mothers' parenting styles, especially in terms of communication and emotional support, meanwhile, males tend to pay more attention to the role of fathers as authority figures or role models. This study observed that the gender of the child and the gender of the parents play a role in how adolescents perceive parenting styles (Yaffe, 2023). Adolescent females are more obedient and crave emotional support, but males tend to rebel against authoritarian parenting and desire greater autonomy (Lansford, 2022).

Teenage girls see their mothers as more affectionate than their fathers. The higher the perception of warmth and communication from parents, the greater the sense of purpose in life and the lower the levels of anxiety and depression. Teenage boys report higher perceptions of criticism and rejection (Beatriz Ortega, Alonso Mateo, 2021). Meanwhile another study showed that both males and females generally perceive their parents as authoritative. However, this study found no significant differences between genders in their perceptions of their fathers vs. mother's parenting styles. This means that, in this context, gender does not significantly modify how adolescents view their parents' parenting styles (Ho & Jaafar, 2022; Salsabila et al., 2024).

## CONCLUSION

Adolescents in a transition period undergo significant physical, psychological, emotional, and mental changes, and their perceptions of parenting shape how they behave as adults. They need to be treated as individuals with authority, to be heard, cared for, and supported by parents who serve as role models. Female adolescents are generally more responsive to emotional and affectionate parenting, while male adolescents are more sensitive to control, boundaries, and freedom, with the influence also depending on whether the mother or father is psychologically closer. Parents therefore must continually adapt their parenting to meet adolescents' developmental needs and help them navigate the transition period successfully. This study, however, was limited by a small sample size of 120 adolescents from one city and the use of a survey method, making it less representative. Further research is needed to examine cultural, educational, and economic factors that may influence parenting patterns.

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