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Parenting Styles and Personality Traits among Iranian Parents

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Background: As parental personality traits are assumed to play a role in parenting behaviors, this study was conducted to investigate the relationship of personality traits and the parenting styles (Permissive, Authoritarian and Authoritative) in Iranian setting.

Methods: In this correlational study 1234 parents (617 mothers and their husbands as well) with at least one child between 6-12 years old were selected. They were recruited through a systematic sampling technique from families attending to health care centers located in Gonbad city -North of Iran in 2017. Parenting styles & dimensions questionnaire (PSDQ) and Goldberg's Big Five personality inventory were administrated to data collection. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis via the SPSS v.16 software.

Results: The mean age of the participants was 38.16±5.64 years. The majority of the cases (70.3%) adopted Authoritative style and personality traits most of them (42.9%) were Conscientiousness. It showed there is a significant relationship between personality traits and parenting styles (p=0.004). Parents with personality traits such as: Agreeableness; Conscientiousness; Openness to experience and Emotional Stability adopted Aauthoritative parenting style, while parents with Extraversion personality trait were associated with Authoritarian parenting style. Also it found that Extraversion mothers had Permissive parenting style, whereas Extraversion mothers had Authoritarian parenting style (p<0.05)

Conclusion: This project has provided further insight into parental personality characteristics that are related to general parenting styles.

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