

## FAMILY PREDICTORS OF ETIQUETTE AND MANNERS AMONG YOUTHS IN ANAMBRA STATE

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### **Abstract**

*This study examined family predictors of etiquette and manners among youths' in Anambra State. The study adopted a correlational research design. Four research questions and three null hypotheses guided the study. The population comprised 4,604 first and second year faculty of Education undergraduates of both Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka and Chukwuemeka Odimegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam. Purposive sampling was used in selecting 821 respondents from the two institutions. An instrument titled, "Parenting Style on Youths' Etiquette and Manner Questionnaire (PSYEMQ) was employed for data collection. The instrument was validated by 3 experts. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to compute the reliability and an overall reliability index of 0.78 was obtained. Mean and Standard deviation were used to answer research question one, while Pearson Product moment Correlation coefficient was used to answer research question two, three, and four. Regression analysis was used to test the three null hypotheses. The major findings revealed that youths exhibited all the ten manners and etiquette listed that are at variance with societal norms and values. It also showed that authoritarian parenting style had a significant relationship with youths' etiquette and manners among others. Based on the findings, some recommendations were made, among which are: workshops should be organized for youths' on the importance of good etiquette and manners, Counsellors, parents and care-givers should provide on the spot correction for the youths' against youthful exuberances and ill-manners.*

### **Introduction**

Today's youth behaviour's leave much to be desired as they engage in their subculture that defines their behaviour. The youth culture is greatly at variance with known etiquette and manner in many aspects. According to Oxford Advance Learners Dictionary, etiquette is defined as the formal rules of correct or polite behaviour in society or among members of a particular profession. Aresty (2000) viewed etiquette as a code of rules and regulations defining good form or "good manners" in social, public or official behaviour.

This author further explained that the code originally applied only to conduct in court circles, but it has now been extended to provide guide for everyday living. Parker (2004) further defined etiquette as a code of behaviour that helps people get along with one another. The definitions of these authors imply that etiquette refers to rules of acceptable behaviour. It provides the yardstick for measuring the social behaviour of persons as they interact with one another, in order to have friction free relationship. Aresty's definition also throws some light on the relationship between etiquette and good manners. While etiquette is the code of rules governing people's behaviour, manner is the behaviour itself. Thus etiquette enables the society to ascertain if an individual's behaviour is good or bad, that is, it measures good or bad conduct or manners.

Manner is defined as the way someone behaves towards or talk to other people. It also connotes ways of behaviour in social situation (Ojukwu, 2010). This definition implies that manner is behavioural. Etiquette lays down the rules or required standard while manners determine whether or not they are met. Hence, one talk about good or bad manners, good manner is based on common sense and a regard for the feelings of others. Cultivating good manners is a necessity. Bartleby (2005) observed that adorableness of character is fundamentally essential, but however, for the transient impression that we make at home, abroad and in public, two superficial attributes are indispensable, these are good manners and pleasing conduct (etiquette). As youths interact with themselves and other people in the society, they need to learn to behave in ways that make life easier and more pleasant.

There are some prevailing youth manners and etiquette that are at variance with acceptable societal norms and values, these according to Ojukwu (2010, pp226), include:

- The youths have thrown politeness to the wind, some exhibit rudeness in their request, greetings and response.
- Some youths have low self-carriage, that is, they walk, talk, stand and sit with reckless abandon.
- Some female youths move about almost nude and half-naked.
- They have very poor personal conduct in public places, and are easily irritated and quarrelsome.
- Their behaviour towards the elderly are heart rendering.
- They lack telephone manners and etiquette.

Youths are people aged 18-35. It is a stage of life when a person is young, especially the time before a person becomes an adult (Ojukwu, 2010). According to the National Youth Development Policy (2011), youths represent

a tremendous potential for the society, if they are mentored and monitored well, and their youthful exuberance channeled in the right direction, the enthusiasm, initiative and the idealism of young people can help others including the elderly to create a happier peaceful, loving and more balanced society. The youths are very sensitive and emotional, so it is expected that they be handled with greater care as any misdirection or mismanagement at this period of development leaves a permanent scar on both the youth, immediate family and the larger society. In Anambra State, it is worrisome the extent youths have deteriorated in their character and manner. According to Chinweuba (2011), adolescents have gone so wild that most of them are bullies; have no regards for adults; do not reference their parents; are easily irritated and pick up quarrelling easily and also move about almost naked in the name of fashion trend.

The youths are found in the family where their first socialization starts. A family can be defined as a durable association of husband and wife with or without children (Olayinka&Omoegun, 2001). The authors further opined that the primary assignment of the family includes training and nurturing the children in proper and well accepted norms of the society because good family upbringing breeds a good nation. This however to a large extent depends on family factors available.

Family factors are often referred to as those characteristics that define the families and the specific things that make up the family such as family structure, family leadership styles, family size, disciplinary practices and parental involvement among others (Henderson &Mapp, 2002). There are some family factors that may be more exerting on etiquette and manners among the youths, these factors among others includes family socio-economic status, family size, parenting styles, communication pattern and family structures. For the purpose of this study, the researchers limit the study to family parenting styles.

Parenting styles which is also known as family leadership style is the aggregate of the various patterns which parents use in the upbringing, training and rearing of their children (Okpako, 2004). In other words, family leadership style or parenting style are the different types of practices parents use to rear or socialize their children to internalize acceptable norms and values of the society that will help to mold their personality and behaviour. Good manners and etiquette among youths are dependent on family variables (Ojukwu, 2010).

Baumrind (1968) categorized parenting styles into three forms, authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive. Authoritarian family leadership style is perceived as family leadership style in which all the decisions and

directives made are passed to subordinates who are expected to carry out these under very close supervision. (Aunick, 2002). Stressing further, Annick maintained that any subordinates' attempt at questioning the directives given are discouraged including the fact that there may be little or no opportunity for subordinates to develop initiative and creativity. Parents who adopt authoritarian family leadership style may be linked with negative behavioural outcome which include aggressive behaviour, decreased emotional functioning, depression as well as lower level of self-confidence (Beyers&Gossens, 2003).

Families that adopt authoritarian family parenting style are characterized by high expectations of conformity and compliance to family rules and directions. Authoritarian parenting style is a restrictive, punitive style in which parents exhort the child to follow their directions to respect their work effort (Dienye&Oyet, 2011). Authoritarian parents are less responsive to their children's need, and are more likely to spank a child rather than discuss the problem (Tim, 2007). Stressing further, the author stated that authoritarian parents display little warmth and are highly controlling. They exercise authority, do not engage in discussion with teens and family rules and standard are not debated. They also believe that children should accept their rules and regulations without question. Children of such parents may tend to learn that following parental rules and adherence to strict discipline is valued over independent behaviour. In a related view, Kpoko (2007) opined that children may become rebellious and might display aggressive behaviours and as well may become dependent. These children who are more submissive tend to remain dependent on their parents.

Authoritative parenting style also called assertive, democratic or balanced family leadership style (Dienye&Oyet, 2011) is characterized by child centered approach that holds high expectations of maturity. Authoritative family parenting style understands their children's feeling and teaches them how to regulate them. They encourage children to be independent but still places limits and controls on their actions. Authoritative parents set limits and demand maturity, but when punishing a child, the parents will explain the motive for their punishment (Tim, 2007). Children under this type of family leadership style may display more positive behaviour. According to Santrock (2006), children of authoritative parents tend to be cheerful, self-reliant, self-controlled, friendly and achievement-oriented, co-operate with adults and cope well with stress. According to Bystritsky (2006) authoritative family leadership style tend to associate with positive behavioural outcomes which include increased competence, autonomy, self-esteem as well as better problem solving skills, better academic performance and better peers relations.

Permissive family parenting style involves allowing the children to do what they wish. Permissive family leadership style also called indulgent leadership style is a style of family leadership in which parents are less involved with their children, place few demands or controls on them (Dienye&Oyet, 2011). Santrock (2006) postulated that permissive parents do not require children to regulate themselves. The author noted that children from such parents tend to be rebellious, low in self-reliance and self-control, impulsive, aggressive, domineering, aimless, and low in achievement. Terry (2004) postulated that permissive parenting style is related to future deviant and aggressiveness, poor supervision, neglect and indifference, and may play a critical role in engaging in future deviant. Stressing further, Terry maintained that this type of family leadership style demands little in terms of obedience and respect for authority, they are non-traditional and lenient and do not require mature behaviour. This study therefore tends to find out those family predictors of etiquette and manner among youths and how the findings will be of immense benefits to counselors who are the architect of social transformation that is geared towards bringing about an all-round positive change among the youths.

In recent years, the reckless and carefree manners/etiquette among the youths has been on the increase and that has become a common concern for parents, counsellors, psychologists, sociologist among others. The youths are the wheels that drive any nation to its desired destination, which is why it is expedient to nip their excesses in the bud. In Anambra state, the youths tend to exhibit bad manners and poor etiquette such as rudeness in their request, greetings and response; low self-carriage like walking, talking, sitting and standing with reckless abandon; very poor personal conduct in public places; disregard for the elderly; easily irritated and quarrelsome and careless dressing among others (Chinweuba, 2011).

Blames have been apportioned to parents, teachers and care-givers. Parents are the care-givers of every child and are responsible for providing the right training and inculcating the accepted values and norms in the society and generally providing the right nurturing. The manner in which such training is being exercised tends to influence the child's personality in many ways. This study therefore intends to find out whether the observed youth behaviours emanate from the leadership style in the family hence the study asks, what family leadership style predict youths etiquette and manner in Anambra State? This the study tries to justify.

The study was guided by the following research questions and hypotheses that were tested at 0.05 level of significance and they include:

- What are the type of etiquette/manners of youths that are at variance with accepted societal norms and values?
- What is the relationship between authoritarian parenting style and etiquette and manner among youths?
- What is the relationship between authoritative parenting style and etiquette and manner among youths?
- What is the relationship between permissive parenting style and etiquette and manner among youths?
- Authoritarian parenting style has no significant relationship with etiquette and manner among youths in Anambra state.
- Authoritative parenting style has no significant relationship with etiquette and manner among youths in Anambra state.
- Permissive parenting style has no significant relationship with etiquette and manner among youths in Anambra state.

### **Method**

The study adopted correlational design method because it investigated the relationship between existing variables for the purpose of making inference from the perception of an estimated population. The targeted population for this study was all the first and second year undergraduate students in Faculty of Education, of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka and Chukwuemeka Odimegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam Campus, numbering 4,604 between the age group of 16-22 years. The sample consists of 821 first and second year undergraduates that were selected using purposive sampling technique. Three hundred and sixty-one (361) undergraduates were selected from Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, while four hundred and sixty (460) were selected from Chukwuemeka Odimegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam. The reason for the disparity in sample size was due to the fact that these are the number of undergraduates offering guidance and counseling in each of the two faculties in each campus.

The instrument employed for data collection is a 40-item questionnaire, titled "Parenting Style and Youths' Etiquette and Manners Questionnaire, (PSYEMQ)". The instrument has 2 sections, A and B. A is on youths bio data and etiquette/manners that are at variance with societal norms and values. B is on the 3 types of parenting styles which has 3 clusters on each of the parenting styles.

The instrument was validated by 3 experts. Their corrections were used for the final draft copy. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient was used to compute the reliability. An overall reliability co-efficient of 0.78 was obtained, hence, the instrument was statistically adjudged to be reliable. Four

research assistants assisted in administering the instrument. Data were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to answer research question one with a criterion value of 2.50, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was employed in answering research questions two, three and four. The null hypotheses were tested using multiple regression analysis.

## Results

**Table 1:** Mean and standard deviation of the types of youths' etiquette/manners that are at variance with societal norms and values.

S/N	Youths' etiquette/manners at variance with norms of society	$\bar{X}$	SD	Decision
1.	I lack politeness in my request, greetings and response.	2.60	0.49	Accepted
2.	I use foul languages.	2.57	0.50	Accepted
3.	I have a culture of nudity and dress to kill.	2.77	0.43	Accepted
4.	I am easily irritated and quarrelsome.	2.70	0.56	Accepted
5.	I have poor self-carriage.	2.58	0.51	Accepted
6.	My behaviour towards the elderly is heart rendering.	2.85	0.53	Accepted
7.	I am badly groomed in personal hygiene.	2.67	0.51	Accepted
8.	I am indifference over others emotional feelings.	2.63	0.49	Accepted
9.	I have poor habit of answering and making phone calls.	2.73	0.45	Accepted
10.	I am wild in public gathering and functions.	2.72	0.45	Accepted
<b>Grand Mean</b>		<b>2.68</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>Accepted</b>

Result in Table 1 shows the mean and standard deviations of respondents on the types of youths' etiquette/manners that are at variance with societal norms and culture. Table 1 indicates that the mean values for all the items were all above the criterion value of 2.50. This implies that youths' agreed that they exhibit all these manners and etiquette listed above.

**Table 2:** Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Analysis of the relationship between authoritarian family parenting style and etiquette and manners among youths' in Anambra state.

Variable	$\bar{X}$	SD	N	R	$R^2$
Etiquette and manners among youths	37.33	3.67	821	0.97	0.94
Authoritarian family parenting style	38.15	3.48			

$\alpha = 0.05$ ,  $R^2 =$  coefficient of determination

Result on Table 2 is correlation coefficients of the relationship between authoritarian family parenting style and etiquette and manners exhibited by youths in Anambra state. Result showed that the correlation between authoritarian parenting style and etiquette and manners exhibited by youths in Anambra state was 0.97. This means there was a very strong positive relationship between authoritarian parenting style and etiquette and manners exhibited by the youths'. The coefficient of determination (0.94) also known as the predictive value means that 94% of authoritarian parenting style accounted for the variation in etiquette and manners among the youths'. This is an indication that 6% of variation in etiquette and manners among the youths is attributed to other factors other than authoritarian parenting style.

**Table 3:** Regression analysis of authoritarian parenting style and etiquette and manners among youths.

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	10371.056	1	10371.056	1.2114	.000
Residual	701.499	819	.857		
Total	11072.555	820			

$\alpha = 0.05$

In order to test hypothesis 1 ( $H_{o1}$ ), regression analysis was used. The result in Table 3 shows that an F-ratio of 1.2114 with associated exact probability value of 0.00 was obtained. This exact probability value of 0.00 was less than 0.05 level of significance set as bench mark and it was found to be significant. The null hypothesis which stated that authoritarian parenting style has no significant relationship with etiquette and manners among the youths' was therefore rejected and inference drawn was that authoritarian parenting style has a significant relationship with etiquette and manners among the youths' in Anambra State.

**Table 4:** Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Analysis of authoritative family parenting style and etiquette and manner's among youths.

Variable	$\bar{X}$	SD	N	R	$R^2$
Etiquette and manners among youths	37.33	3.67	821	0.79	0.62
Authoritarian family parenting style	38.52	3.75			

$R^2$  = coefficient of determination

Result on Table 4 is correlation coefficient of the relationship between authoritative parenting style and etiquette and manners among youths'. Results

showed that the correlation between authoritative parenting style and etiquette/manners among youths' was 0.79. This means there was a very strong positive relationship between authoritative parenting style and etiquette/manners among youths. The coefficient of determination associated with 0.79 is 0.62. The coefficient of determination (0.62) also known as the predictive value means that 62% of authoritative parenting style accounted for the variation in etiquette/manners exhibited by youths. This is an indication that 38% of variation in youths' etiquette/manners is attributed to other factors other than authoritative parenting style.

**Table 5:** Regression Analysis of authoritative parenting style and etiquette/manners among youths'

<b>Model</b>	<b>Sum of Squares</b>	<b>Df</b>	<b>Mean Square</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
Regression	6832.670	1	6832.670	1.3203	.000
Residual	4239.885	819	5.177		
Total	11072.555	820			

$\alpha = 0.05$

In order to test hypothesis 2 ( $H_{02}$ ), regression analysis was used. The result in Table 5 shows that an f-ratio of 1.32 with associated exact probability value of 0.00 was obtained. This exact probability value of 0.00 was less than 0.05 level of significance set as bench mark and it was found to be significant. The null hypothesis which stated that authoritative parenting style has no significant relationship with youths' etiquette/manners in Anambra state was therefore rejected and inference drawn was that authoritative parenting style has a significant relationship with etiquette/manners among youths in Anambra State.

**Table 6:** Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Analysis of Permissive Parenting style and etiquette/manners among youths'

<b>Variable</b>	<b><math>\bar{X}</math></b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>r</b>	<b>R<sup>2</sup></b>
Etiquette and manners among youths'	37.33	3.67	821	0.89	0.80
Permissive parenting style	36.50	3.56			

R<sup>2</sup> = coefficient of determination

Result on Table 6 is correlation coefficient of the relationship between permissive parenting style and youths etiquette/manners. Results showed that the correlation between permissive parenting style and etiquette/manners

among youths’ was 0.89. This means there was a very strong positive relationship between permissive parenting style and youths’ etiquette/manners. The coefficient of determination associated with 0.89 is 0.80. The coefficient of determination (0.80) also known as the predictive value means that 80% of permissive parenting style accounted for the variation in youths’ etiquette/manners. This is an indication that 20% of variation in youths’ etiquette/manners is attributed to other factors other than permissive parenting style.

**Table 7:** Regression Analysis of permissive parenting style and youths’ etiquette/manners in Anambra State.

<b>Model</b>	<b>Sum of Squares</b>	<b>Df</b>	<b>Mean Square</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
Regression	8849.160	1	8849.160	3.2603	.000
Residual	2223.395	819	2.715		
Total	11072.555	820			

$\alpha = 0.05$

In order to test hypothesis 3 (Ho<sub>3</sub>), regression analysis was used. The result in Table 7 shows that an f-ratio of 3.26 with associated exact probability value of 0.00 was obtained. This exact probability value of 0.00 was less than 0.05 level of significance set as bench mark and it was found to be significant. The null hypothesis which stated that permissive parenting style has no significant value with youths’ etiquette and manners was therefore rejected and inference drawn was that, permissive parenting style has a significant relationship with youths’ etiquette and manners in Anambra State.

**Discussion**

The study found out that the youths accepted all the 10 types of etiquettes and manners listed that are at variance with societal norms and values. This implies that the youths actually are deficient on etiquettes and manners. This finding is in agreement with Ojukwu (2010) who noted that some of the deviant manners/etiquette among adolescents of today include; being easily irritated and quarrelsome, having low self-concept, poor personal conduct in public, poor dress sense, treating the elderly with contempt among others. This is an indication that good manners and etiquette have been thrown into the wind by the youths.

The study found out that authoritarian parenting style had a significant relationship with youths’ etiquette and manners. This could also form part of the reason why most youths lack etiquette and manners. This is in consonance

with the postulation of Beyers and Gossens (2003) who stated that parents who adopt authoritarian parenting style maybe linked with negative behavioural outcomes on their children which include aggressive behaviour, decreased emotional functioning, depression and lower level of self-confidence. The finding is also in line with Terry (2004) who stated that authoritarian parents place firm limits and controls on the children and allow little verbal exchange. It's obvious from the findings that due to the firm leadership style youths from authoritarian family are exposed to, chances are that they will be aggressive and unresponsive in their behaviour which is an attribute of poor leadership and parenting style.

The study found out that authoritative parenting style had a significant relationship with youths' etiquette and manners. This implies that youths nurtured under this kind of parenting style will display more positive behaviours. This in line with the assertion of Bystritsky (2006), noted that authoritative parenting style tends to associate with positive behavioural outcomes which includes increased competency, autonomy, self-esteem as well as better problem solving skills, better academic performance and better peers relations. They encourage children to be independent but still places limits and controls on their actions (Tim, 2007). It seems obvious that youths' under this type of family leadership style tend to display a positive behaviour because the parenting style teaches youths' how to regulate their feelings.

The study found out that permissive parenting style had a significant relationship with youths' etiquette and manners. This finding is in line with the opinion of Terry (2004) who postulated that permissive parenting style is related to future deviant and aggressiveness, poor supervision, neglect and indifference, and may play critical role in engaging in future deviant. Stressing further, Terry maintained that this type of family leadership style demand little in terms of obedience and respect for authority, they are non-traditional and lenient and do not require mature behaviour, allow considerable self-regulation and avoid confrontations. It is likely that youths nurtured under this leadership style will tend to exhibit poor manners and etiquette because of the porous, poor supervision and indifference attitude of their parents towards their nurturing.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

- 1) Workshop should be organized for youths by school counsellors on the importance of good etiquette and manners.

- 2) School authorities should organize workshop and talk show for parents on the importance of training and nurturing up a child using the best family leadership style.
- 3) Counsellors, parents and caregivers should provide on the spot correction to youths over their youthful exuberances and ill-manners.

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