

The Impact of Parenting on Youth Criminality

Capstone

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Abstract

Parents are the basis of their child's knowledge and experience. Their input and approach to parenting plays a key role in the development of emotional and social skills that the child will rely on for the rest of their lives. For a child, the relationship with their parents and the quality of their childhood can be a determining factor in whether they become involved in criminality. This study used a qualitative design to examine secondary data for trends linking parenting style with criminal (also referred to as delinquent) behaviours. This report established that there is a link between the parenting style a child experiences and the likelihood they will become involved in criminality. Specifically, a neglecting or authoritarian parenting style results in greater occurrences of delinquent behaviour. This result could be explained by the low parental responsiveness that characterizes both styles. However, a more likely conclusion is that these parenting styles impede the formation of the parent-child relationship. Thus, criminality can be better predicted and prevented by examining the quality of the relationship a child has with their parent.

Keywords: parenting style, delinquency, criminality, parent-child relationship, parenting

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Background

It is well documented that the quality of an individual's childhood can determine the type of adult they become (Fagan, 2001). A poor-quality childhood can lead to a myriad of problems in adulthood (Bodkin, Pivnick, Bondy, Ziegler, Martin, Jernigan, & Kouyoumdjian, 2019). Recent data shows that half the population of inmates in Canadian prisons have experienced some form of childhood abuse (Bodkin et al., 2019). Violence, substance abuse and delinquent behaviours can all be consequences of child maltreatment (Fagan, 2001). These are clear examples of the relationship that exists between childhood maltreatment and future offending (Fagan, 2001).

Generally, the source of maltreatment towards a child is the parental figure (Fagan, 2001). Childhood abuse and maltreatment are broad topics under which many extreme behaviours from a parent (such as violent physical abuse) can be classified as causing them (Fagan, 2001). However, rather than focusing on adult behaviours that are collectively accepted as abusive and unlawful, an analysis of how basic, daily parent-child interactions can negatively impact the child is applicable across more of society and can be relevant in reducing the probability of future crime (Boshier, 2011).

The basic interaction a parent has with their child will determine the quality of their relationship (Mallers, Charles, Neupert, & Almeida, 2010). Quality relationships with parental figures is conducive to psychological and physical health in children (Mallers et al., 2010). Children who are raised without contribution from their parents “develop poor emotion regulation strategies” (Mallers et al., 2010, p. 1652). Children suffer lower self-confidence and difficulty in coping with emotion; these children most often struggle with poor emotional well-being (Mallers et al., 2010). This developmental setback causes greater rates of aggression,

hostility, depression and anxiety (Mallers et al., 2010). Increasingly more concerning is that individuals who do not have adequate relationships with their parents are more likely to suffer from mental disorders (Mallers et al., 2010).

These repercussions of poor relationships can translate into criminal activity when considering the effects they have on children as they mature (Kamaluddin, Md Shariff, Othman, Ismail, & Mat Saat, 2015). Certain psychological traits have been noted as making the individuals possessing them more inclined to perpetrate criminal behaviours (Kamaluddin, et al., 2015). Specifically, aggression, low self-control, low self-esteem or confidence and an “inaccurate or biased ways of attending to or conferring meaning upon experiences” (or cognitive distortion) are linked to criminal behaviour (Trzesniewski, Donnellan, Moffitt, Robins, Poulton, & Caspi, 2006; Kamaluddin et al., 2015, p. 140). When examining offenders, low emotional intelligence has been noted as a common trend among them (Sharma, Prakash, Sengar, Chaudhury, & Singh, 2015). These are all issues a child is at a greater risk of developing should they not have a high-quality relationship with a parental figure (Mallers et al., 2010; Boshier, 2011)

This study will be exploring whether a link exists between parenting and an increased likelihood of the children being parented becoming involved in criminal activity. A constructivist worldview will be applied to conduct research. This worldview relays that humans interpret the world based on historical and social contexts and experiences (Creswell, 2014). This will be essential in examining how a child’s past can influence their future.

The scope of the study was limited to exploring aspects of parenting that resulted in the child committing delinquent acts. For the purpose of this study, delinquent acts or delinquency will refer to the perpetration of criminal offences. Therefore, delinquency and criminality will be

used interchangeably. This study will not be examining the impact parenting has on behaviour outside of criminality.

Research Question

In order to understand what relationship exists between parenting and youth criminality, the primary research question this report attempts to answer is: can parenting style increase the likelihood of the child perpetrating criminal activity? This report will go on to address the following secondary question: what aspects of parenting result in delinquency? These questions allow for broad exploration of literature and development of applicable theories.

Literature Search

To select the literature that would be put forth for review and analysis, a comprehensive search of the Justice Institute of British Columbia's (JIBC) online library database was conducted, as well as a basic online search using Google Scholar. Initially, a general search of the JIBC library database was conducted with the keywords "parenting" and "crime." The resulting search yielded 4,668 hits and two articles were selected for further review as they contained information about parenting styles. Nonetheless, the subsequent searches required inclusion and exclusion criteria to limit and narrow results.

The subsequent search of the JIBC library database was conducted with the search terms "parenting" and "juvenile delinquency." Here, the search terms were changed to "delinquency" as there have been more studies conducted on the link between parenting and child delinquency rather than parenting and child criminality. Further, many of these works mentioned the link between parenting and crime or refer to specific delinquent actions that can be classified as crimes. Therefore, this literature is relevant in answering the research question.

Results were limited to full text entries and peer reviewed, scholarly journals. Publication dates for the results were restricted to the time period between 2008 and the present day to ensure the research was current and up to date. The language of the works was limited to English. This search produced 941 results. Applying further inclusion and exclusion criteria produced results that were irrelevant to the research question.

Finally, an additional search was conducted using the online search engine Google Scholar. The search terms used in this search were “parenting” and “crime” or “delinquency.” No limitations or restrictions were applied which yielded nearly 79,000 hits. However, only the first page of results was considered due to timeline constraints. Too, subsequent pages contained results that were not directly related to parenting and juvenile delinquency. The first page generated 10 hits; 3 of which were put forth for review.

Next, in examining results yielded, 15 articles were selected for the abstract review. These articles were selected due to their titles as they appeared to be relevant to the research question. Articles with “parenting style” or those asserting a link between parenting and crime in the title were favored due to their direct relevance in answering the research question. A brief review of the articles was conducted to determine which of them reflected the title in the content and provided an analysis of parenting styles or linked parenting actions or aspects to delinquent child behaviours. Those that met this criterion were selected for the final review.

Finally, of the 15 articles picked for the abstract review, 9 were chosen for final review and analysis. The selected articles were analyzed first for descriptions of parenting styles and behaviours. Sources were then searched for information pertaining to parenting aspects or behaviours that produced a direct or specific negative outcome in children. Articles had to have identified specific parenting behaviours or styles that resulted in delinquent behaviours in

children. This served to evidence how parents can directly increase the likelihood that their children would participate in delinquent or criminal activities and why exactly this occurs.

Relationship Quality

While it is an outcome of parenting and not a specific parenting behaviour, the parent-child relationship was the first theme that became apparent in the literature; specifically, the necessity for a quality parental relationship to avoid child criminality (Mallers et al., 2010). There are various manners by which parents can establish a quality relationship with their child (Mallers et al., 2010; Farooqi, 2014). The quality of a relationship is considered to be determined through high levels of trust, care, communication and support (Farooqi, 2014). These can be further broken down into aspects such as security, nurturance, understanding, validation and affection (Farooqi, 2014). High levels of these feelings are associated with quality relationships (Farooqi, 2014). In a broad sense, it is relationships that foster wellbeing and have a range of “positive feelings and emotions” that are generally accepted as being of high quality (Farooqi, 2014).

To assess the quality of parent-child relationships, specifically, researchers examine aspects like the child’s level and quality of support, nurturance and affection they received from their parents (Mallers et al., 2010). For a high-quality relationship to be formed with a child, it is necessary that the child perceives the parental figure responds to their needs (Mallers et al., 2010). Beginning in infancy, parental response is key in creating a strong bond with a child (Mallers et al., 2010). In addition to this, the child must perceive they are supported by the parent and feel some degree of shared warmth or affection (Mallers et al., 2010).

Parent-Child Relationship

The next theme that emerged concerned determining why a poor parent-child relationship can result in delinquency. Two theories were repeatedly proposed to explain this phenomenon: social control theory and attachment theory. First, according to social control theory, delinquency occurs (or is prevented) due to social bonds (Hoeve, Stams, Van Der Put, Dubas, Van Der Laan, & Gerris, 2012). Strong bonds or relationships with others will keep individuals from committing deviant acts as they will not behave in a manner that is not accepted by the person with whom they are bonded (Hoeve et al., 2012). In the case of youths, it is theorized that strong attachment to their parent will cause them to care about their parents' wishes and better adhere to their expectations (Hoeve et al., 2012).

However, this theory fails to consider the specific values and morals of the parent. Social control theory simply states that persons with strong bonds to others are less likely to commit deviant acts; however, the interpretation of a deviant (or criminal) act can be subjective (Hoeve et al., 2012). Should a parent be involved in criminality, illegal transgressions might not be perceived as deviant; therefore, there is a higher likelihood that their child too would reflect similar values (Hoeve et al., 2012). Too, this theory fails to account for youths who become involved in criminal activity despite being raised by parents who are lawful (Hoeve et al., 2012). Therefore, social control theory cannot explain child delinquency in all cases without incorporating other factors or theories.

Conversely, to overcome the deficiencies in social control theory, Boshier's 2011 analysis cited attachment theory to explain how a child can become a delinquent. In sum, attachment theory is characterized by the necessity for parental attachment in infancy, with emphasis placed upon parental responsiveness (Boshier, 2011). The relationships formed with

caregivers at the start of life become the basis for all social relationships in the future (Boshier, 2011). To facilitate this relationship, the primary caregiver must respond to the needs of the child; neglectful behaviours on behalf of the parental figure can result in an insecure relationship, lacking attachment (Boshier, 2011). Should an insecure relationship be formed, the child will possess “the inability to show affection or concern for others, as well as aggressive tendencies” (Hoeve et al., 2012, p. 772). Therefore, the child will not have developed adequate social skills and behaviours conducive to forming relationships (Boshier, 2011). Given the lack of bonds and behavioural skills, the child will be more likely to participate in deviant or criminal behaviour (Boshier, 2011; Hoeve et al., 2012).

Despite some shortcomings, both theories illustrate the importance of bond and the consequences of a poor relationship with parental figures. While they differ in why delinquency or crime occurs, they illustrate the common theme of the necessity for healthy relationships with caregivers (Boshier, 2011). This points to the responsibility of parents to ensure they facilitate strong relationships with their child (Boshier, 2011; Hoeve et al., 2012).

Parenting Style

Yet another theme that became apparent when examining the literature was parenting style. A parenting style is a collection of behaviours and approaches a parent applies consistently, across all situations, to care for and manage their child; the specific behaviours selected by the parent can have a significant impact on the child (Hoeve, Blokland, Dubas, Loeber, Gerris, & Van Der Laan, 2008). Generally, parenting styles are differentiated by the varying application of two dimensions: responsiveness and control (Hoeve et al., 2008). Responsiveness is defined as the degree to which the parent acknowledges and responds to the child’s physical, emotional and psychological needs (Hoeve et al., 2008). This encompasses

displaying warmth, support, affection and acceptance (Hoeve et al., 2008). Conversely, the control dimension of parenting style “refers to punishment, restrictiveness, supervision, inductive parenting, and conformity demands” (Hoeve et al., p. 224). In essence, control dimensions describe what the parent does to ensure the child adheres to the demands and rules they set out.

As reflected in the literature, there are four parenting styles: authoritarian, authoritative, permissive, and neglecting (Boshier, 2011; Hoeve et al., 2008). Authoritarian can be characterised by the parent exerting low responsiveness and high control; they are strict with the child and less responsive to their needs (Hoeve et al., 2008). Authoritative, on the other hand, is displayed through high control and responsiveness (Hoeve et al., 2008). The parent sets high expectations but supports the child and responds to their needs (Hoeve et al., 2008). Next, permissive parenting entails low control and high responsiveness (Hoeve et al., 2008). The parent responds to the child’s needs but offers little to no form of control or discipline (Hoeve et al., 2008). Finally, neglecting parenting is characterized by low control and low responsiveness as the parent is withdrawn from the child and offers little attention (Hoeve et al., 2008).

In their 2008 study, Hoeve et al. examined the relationship between parenting style and child delinquency through reviewing results from a 1987 panel study that followed young boys in Pittsburgh. While girls were not analyzed, the results of this study could still be validated through subsequent sources mentioned later. Delinquent acts (defined in this studying by various criminal acts) committed by the boys were compared against parenting styles to determine the link between style and delinquency (Hoeve et al., 2008).

Here, the results showed that neglecting parenting resulted in the most serious and largest quantities of delinquent acts perpetrated in comparison to other parenting styles (Hoeve et al., 2008). Authoritarian parenting was also associated, to a lesser degree, to persistent and serious

delinquency (Hoeve et al., 2008). Interestingly, this result was found to be true in another study that examined the link between parenting and delinquency. It found that neglectful parenting created the most delinquency in youths, while authoritarian-style parenting causing slightly more delinquency than permissive or authoritative (Tapia, Alarid, & Clare, 2018).

Again, this result was reflected in Sarwar's 2016 study which analyzed the effects of parenting style on a child's behaviour. Unlike the previous works, this study differs as it offers some explanation as to why authoritarian parenting might produce higher levels of delinquency in comparison to other styles (Sarwar, 2016). The author theorizes that strict rules and strong parental reaction to a child contravening the rules may cause rebellious behaviour (Sarwar, 2016). However, they also identified that this style can impede the parent-child relationship as well as instilling a lower level of confidence and fewer coping mechanisms in comparison to other parenting approaches (Sarwar, 2016).

While this article is useful in proving parenting can increase delinquency, the deficiency in this work is linking the negative outcomes of authoritarian parenting to why delinquent behaviour occurs. While the author identified rebelling against the rules as a cause of delinquency, they did not examine any other possible causes (Sarwar, 2016). For example, whether children can suffer psychological setbacks (or setbacks in brain and behavioural development) as a result of authoritarian parenting or if it weakens the parent-child relationship thus causing delinquency (Hoeve, Dubas, Eichelsheim, Van Der Laan, Smeenk, & Gerris, 2009). The impact parenting style has on the child-parent relationship should be further examined while integrating attachment and social control theories to attempt to explain the outcome on juvenile delinquency.

Parenting Dimensions

As identified by parenting styles, the combination of controlling yet unresponsive parenting can be detrimental for the child. However, a final trend noted in the literature examined the damaging effects of controlling behaviours alone. The control dimension of parenting style was examined to determine how this aspect alone can affect youth criminality; it was noted to be of significance in increasing the likelihood of juvenile delinquency in Hoeve et al.'s 2009 analysis.

Again, control dimensions are parental behaviors that are used to restrict and limit the child; the demands placed on the child by the parent (Hoeve et al., 2009). Hoeve et al. (2009) further broke these dimensions down into behavioural control and psychological control dimensions. Behavioural control is defined by the parent attempting to control the child's behaviour through setting rules and monitoring the youth (Hoeve et al., 2009). On the other hand, psychological control is attempting to control the child through psychological manipulation; it involves "intrusions into the psychological development of the child" (Hoeve et al., 2009, p. 750). This includes using techniques such as love withdrawal and instilling guilt (Hoeve et al., 2009). Ultimately, psychological control was determined to have the greatest relation to delinquency.

This result was further reflected in an analysis of previous studies to determine whether parenting dimensions are associated with externalizing behaviors which are "under controlled behaviors that manifest as aggression, disruptiveness, defiance, hyperactivity, and impulsivity" (Pinquart, 2017, p. 873). Psychological control was associated with high levels of these behaviours. Therefore, psychological control can cause negative behavioural outcomes in children (Pinquart, 2017).

These findings are evidence to the profound effect parental control can have on a child. It is reasonable that externalizing behaviours can manifest into criminal activity or put the youth at a greater risk for becoming involved in criminality (Pinquart, 2017). However, it appears these behaviours can persist into adulthood as evidenced by the fact that adults subject to overprotective and controlling parent behaviours as children caused higher levels of criminogenic thinking (Gonzalez, Mandracchia, Nicholson, & Dahlen, 2014).

Again, these works point to the necessity for further investigation into the parent-child relationship. It should be determined whether delinquency is caused by the psychological impact control dimensions have on the child or if control dimensions disturb the parent-child relationship. Further, this establishes the need to research what exactly makes the authoritarian parenting style damaging to youths; whether the control dimensions, responsiveness dimensions or the combination of the two cause the child distress.

Design and Methodology

To answer the research question, a qualitative research approach was selected. This approach was appropriate as the objective of qualitative research is to explore and understand meaning attributed to social or human problems; learning about a problem or issue (Creswell, 2014). A qualitative approach allows for greater exploration of the research topic as the researcher can examine the problem from multiple perspectives (Creswell, 2014). If conflicting perspectives arise during research, the flexibility of a qualitative design allow for the researcher to change their research plan. (Creswell, 2014). Qualitative methods were better suited as they allowed for data to be validated by examining recurring themes against multiple works (Creswell, 2014). The research theory and direction could then be manipulated based on the conclusions derived from literature.

Conversely, a quantitative approach did not suit the research. Rather than using a qualitative design which involves developing a theory through research, a theory is generated and subsequently tested in a quantitative study. This does not allow for the research question to be considered from multiple perspectives and places limits upon what interpretations can be made from the literature. This was pivotal in answering the research question here as multiple aspects had to be examined to determine the various reasons why parenting can result in criminality.

Furthermore, the basic characteristics of quantitative research made it incompatible with this study. Quantitative research is reliant on data that can be measured and assigned numeric value (Creswell, 2014). Here, the data was comprised of behavioural concepts and theories. Measuring them would not have been directly relevant in addressing the primary and secondary research questions. The lack of relevant numeric or statistic data when conducting research confirmed neither a quantitative nor a mixed methods approach could be applied.

Data Collection

The data collection phase consisted of analysing pre-existing, textual data relevant to the research question. Secondary data was appropriate in this case as the scope of the research question did not allow for a study to provide an adequate answer; there were far too many components analysed here. Multiple parenting style and dimensions had to be thoroughly researched and understood at a theoretical level. Then, the relation between these parenting behaviours and child delinquency was drawn and multiple theories were produced. Secondary data allowed for these topics to be explored in detail and generate conclusions that was based upon the literature. Too, this approach could be accomplished within the allotted timeframe; primary data could not have been used due to timeline constraints.

To conduct the research, a comprehensive search of the Justice Institute of British Columbia's online library database (EBSCO*host*) and Google Scholar resulted in hits. Inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied to narrow the results. Results were limited to ensure the literature was related to parenting behaviours and the outcome of parenting on child criminality. Ultimately, 15 articles that were selected for abstract review. These consisted of peer-edited, scholarly articles, studies and analyses.

Data Analysis

The articles reviewed as a result of the search were compared against each other to determine common trends and themes related to approaches to parenting and child delinquency or criminality. The themes that emerged were the parent-child relationship, parenting styles and parenting dimensions. These themes then became categories and articles were examined for information relating to one or more of the categories. Relevant information was grouped together under each category. Similarities and themes under each category were then noted to validate the information. This approach generated conclusions about the research question and allowed for gaps in the pre-existing research to be further explored. These will be discussed later in this report.

Discussion, Findings and Ethical Issues

A trend in the literature indicated that neglecting parenting caused the greatest amounts of delinquency in youths in comparison to other styles. Authoritarian parenting caused delinquency to a slightly lesser degree than neglecting parenting (Hoeve et al., 2008). Both neglecting and authoritarian parenting are characterized by low responsiveness by the parent; however, authoritarian parenting also encompasses high parental control (Hoeve et al., 2008).

While this result appears to suggest that low responsiveness is the sole explanation for delinquency, the control dimension of parenting must be analyzed. It was identified in the literature that psychological parental control can cause delinquency (Hoeve et al., 2009). Therefore, the type of control an authoritarian parent applies might have a role in determining the likelihood of delinquency. Children who are not subject to psychological control by authoritarian parents might constitute those who do not become delinquent; thus explaining the discrepancy in youth criminal outcomes of parenting styles characterized by low responsiveness. However, this shows that neither responsiveness nor control dimensions are sole explanations for how parenting can cause youth criminality.

Parenting and Parent-Child Relationships

As parenting dimensions alone are not sufficient in explaining why a child becomes delinquent, a superior theory is that these dimensions impede the development of a quality parent-child relationship. Without a strong parental relationship from infancy, the child is left with no knowledge of how to build effective relationships (Mallers et al., 2010). As established earlier, a child's relationship with their parent becomes the foundation or model of a child's future relationships; they know only how to form the same type of relationships they experienced with their parents (Mallers et al., 2010; Boshier, 2011). So, they are left without the skills and behavioural strategies necessary for building and maintaining relationships (Boshier, 2011).

However, this lack of developed social skills can be accompanied with the other possible symptoms of poor-quality relationships (Trzesniewski et al., 2006; Kamaluddin et al., 2015). Children with poor parental relationships have been found more likely to experience lower self-confidence and difficulty in coping with emotion (Trzesniewski et al., 2006). Higher rates of aggression, hostility, depression, and anxiety as well as mental disorders have been associated

with children who have poor-quality relationships with their parents (Mallers et al., 2010; Kamaluddin et al., 2015).

These conditions leave the youth more vulnerable to becoming involved in criminal activity (Mallers et al., 2010; Kamaluddin et al., 2015). Individuals with cognitive and psychological issues can be more inclined to perpetrate criminal behaviours (Kamaluddin et al., 2015). Aggression and low self-confidence can be linked to criminal behaviour (Trzesniewski et al., 2006; Kamaluddin et al., 2015). Similarly, low emotional intelligence has been noted to be common among offenders (Sharma et al., 2015). Children without strong parental relationships are at a greater risk to have low emotional intelligence as they lack social skills and the capabilities to manage relationships (Boshier, 2011; Sharma et al., 2015).

Therefore, the parent-child relationship is paramount in avoiding delinquency. The relationship could be compromised by responsiveness or control dimensions; this can be related to parenting styles again. A neglecting parenting style impedes the ability for the child to connect with the parent due to low parental responsiveness (Mallers et al., 2010). The child's needs are not adequately responded to and it is unlikely the child will perceive warmth or support (Mallers et al., 2010). Further, there is not adequate opportunity for the parent to bond with the child (Boshier, 2011). Thus, the trust, care, communication and support criteria needed to establish a healthy relationship cannot be met (Farooqi, 2014). The child likely will not have a quality relationship with their parent, or the bond might be absent completely due to employing a neglecting parenting style (Mallers et al., 2010; Farooqi, 2014).

This result is supported by attachment theory. It explains how low responsiveness or parental withdrawal results in an insecure attachment with parents (Boshier, 2011). The insecure attachment could then result in a poor-quality parent-child relationship (Hoeve et al., 2012). The

interesting element of this theory is its emphasis on parental responsiveness in infancy, specifically, to ensure a secure attachment is formed (Boshier, 2011). It begs the question of whether changing the parenting style at different developmental stages of child can alter the parent-child relationship and, thus, the likelihood of criminality occurring.

Likewise, it can be theorized that the control dimension of authoritarian parenting can disrupt the parent-child relationship. The high control dimension can be detrimental as psychological control hinders the development of a child's autonomy (Murray, Dwyer, Rubin, Knighton-Wisor, & Booth-LaForce, 2014). This rebellious behaviours and lack of autonomy caused by psychological control could suggest that the child does not perceive the parent supports them (Murray et al., 2014). Further, the manipulative techniques used in psychological control may compromise trust and communication between the parent and the child (Hoeve et al., 2009). Therefore, a healthy and high-quality relationship could not be formed (Farooqi, 2014).

The limitation regarding these theories is that authoritarian parenting still results in lower occurrences of delinquency than neglecting parenting. If it was only low responsiveness that interrupted the parent-child bond, authoritarian parenting would contribute to the same rates of delinquency as neglecting parenting. This illustrates that is no definitive manner of hindering the parent-child relationship. Neither low responsiveness nor psychological control will result in the child failing to bond with the parent every time. More research should be done to determine in what cases this will be true. For example, whether high responsiveness in infancy and low responsiveness throughout the rest of childhood will produce the same rates of delinquency. Overall, it should be determined whether this is a gap in the current research, and it can be

explained by another factor, or it is due simply to the fact that every child's perceptions and experiences are different.

Ethical Issues

As primary data was not collected or analyzed in this report, no ethical considerations related to the treatment of participants had to be made (Creswell, 2014). Therefore, the primary ethical consideration was ensuring the report remain free from bias. To ensure this was the case, personal beliefs were not integrated, and conclusions were drawn from facts published in pre-existing studies.

Too, the use of secondary data naturally comes along with the ethical consideration of ensuring the ownership of the original data is acknowledged (Creswell, 2014). This consideration was met through the use of citations and referencing. Further, it was ensured that anonymity of participants was not compromised when describing studies in this report that used primary data.

Conclusion

Parents must take a great amount of care when determining parenting techniques as the impact they have on their child's future is profound (Boshier, 2011). They are the basis of a child's knowledge and experiences; their input and guidance molds their child's development and can ultimately determine how the child will behave for the entirety of its life (Boshier, 2011; Gonzalez et al., 2014). This report established that there is a link between the parenting style a child experiences and the likelihood they will become involved in criminality. Specifically, a neglecting or psychologically controlling approach to parenting results in greater occurrences of delinquent behaviour. These aspects point to the fact that the parent-child relationship plays an important role in determining the likelihood of the child becoming delinquent. Low

responsiveness and psychological control can hinder the establishment of a quality parent-child relationship. However, future studies should be conducted to determine the extent to which this is true.

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