

## The Influence of Authoritarian and Permissive Parenting Styles on Juvenile Delinquency Based on a Criminological Review

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### Abstract

Juvenile delinquency is a growing social problem closely related to the socialization process within the family. Parenting styles, as agents of primary social control, play a crucial role in shaping adolescents' character, discipline, and self-control. This paper aims to analyze the influence of authoritarian and permissive parenting styles on juvenile delinquency based on a criminological perspective. This study employed a qualitative literature review, synthesizing various scientific journals and relevant references that discuss parenting styles and delinquent behavior. The study's findings indicate that authoritarian parenting has an ambivalent relationship with juvenile delinquency. High levels of control can suppress overt delinquency in the short term, but can potentially lead to emotional tension and hidden deviant behavior if not accompanied by warmth. Conversely, permissive parenting is more consistently correlated with increased juvenile delinquency due to weak boundaries and supervision, which result in low self-control and strong peer group influence. From a criminological perspective, these findings can be explained through social control theory, differential association theory, and strain theory, which emphasize the importance of social bonds, behavioral learning processes, and social pressure in the emergence of deviance. Thus, the balance between control and warmth in parenting is a key factor in preventing juvenile delinquency. This paper emphasizes that strengthening the family's function as an agent of informal social control is an essential preventive strategy in addressing juvenile delinquency.

**Keywords:** Authoritarian Parenting, Permissive Parenting, Juvenile Delinquency, Criminology

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## INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a transitional phase fraught with biological, psychological, and social changes. At this stage, individuals are in the process of searching for self-identity, often characterized by emotional turmoil, the need for recognition, and the drive to achieve independence. Unpreparedness to manage these changes can give rise to various forms of deviant behavior, known in criminology as juvenile delinquency. Juvenile delinquency is not simply understood as a violation of social norms, but rather as a social phenomenon related to weak self-control, failed socialization processes, and disharmony within the immediate environment, especially the family (Nursalim, 2025). Data and various empirical studies show that the forms of juvenile delinquency are increasingly diverse, ranging from fighting and theft, substance abuse, traffic violations, to digital-based forms of delinquency such as cyberbullying. From a criminological perspective, this phenomenon does not exist in isolation but is the result of an interaction between individual and structural factors. Sutherland's differential association theory asserts that deviant behavior is learned through social interaction with an environment that supports deviance (in Hisyam et.al, 2025). Meanwhile, social control theory states that weak emotional ties with family, school, and society will increase a teenager's chances of committing crimes (Faried & Yusuf, 2025). Thus, the family, as the primary social unit, plays a strategic role in shaping a child's moral foundation and self-control.

Parenting style is an important variable in explaining the tendency towards juvenile delinquency. Conceptually, authoritarian parenting is characterized by high levels of control, one-way communication, and strict discipline without room for dialogue. Children are expected to obey without much opportunity to express their opinions. Conversely, permissive parenting is characterized by high levels of freedom given to children, but minimal supervision and firm

boundaries (Fatihah et al., 2025). Both parenting styles have the potential to have negative impacts when applied to extremes. Overly authoritarian parenting can lead to psychological distress, anxiety, and even aggression in adolescents. In some cases, excessive control actually encourages children to engage in deviant behavior as a form of resistance or outlet for perceived pressure. Conversely, permissive parenting tends to weaken children's ability to internalize norms due to the lack of consistent boundaries and consequences. Literature studies show a significant relationship between permissive parenting and increased juvenile delinquency, particularly in the form of violations of social norms and low self-control (Asri, 2025). This finding strengthens the view that the quality of parenting influences the formation of personality structure and tendencies towards naughty behavior. From a criminological perspective, juvenile delinquency needs to be understood as a multidimensional phenomenon involving family factors, social environment, economic conditions, and technological developments (Lubis et al., 2025). However, the family remains the primary basis for value formation and norm internalization. Unbalanced parenting styles, whether overly oppressive or overly liberal, can hinder the development of healthy self-control (Shafira & Anastasya, 2024). In addition, permissive parenting tends to weaken adolescents' self-control and increase the likelihood of deviant behavior (Ashraf et.al, 2024). Therefore, research on the influence of authoritarian and permissive parenting styles on juvenile delinquency is relevant for enriching family criminology studies and providing an empirical basis for preventive efforts. Based on this description, this paper aims to analyze in more depth how authoritarian and permissive parenting styles contribute to the emergence of juvenile delinquency from a criminological perspective. This study is expected to provide not only theoretical understanding but also serve as a practical reference in formulating family-based prevention strategies to reduce juvenile delinquency rates sustainably.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a literature review method with a qualitative approach based on a criminological perspective. This method was chosen to examine, analyze, and synthesize various theories and previous research findings regarding authoritarian and permissive parenting styles and their relationship to juvenile delinquency. According to Febrianto & Siroj (2024), a literature review is a research method that aims to examine and interpret various relevant scientific sources to gain a comprehensive understanding of a phenomenon. In this study, data sources were obtained from scientific journals, books, and previous research findings discussing parenting styles and juvenile delinquency. The analytical technique used was content analysis. (*content analysis*), by examining the concepts of authoritarian and permissive parenting styles, then linking them to criminological theories such as social control theory and differential association theory to explain the causal factors of juvenile delinquency. Through this method, the paper is expected to provide a systematic theoretical overview of the influence of parenting styles on juvenile delinquency from a criminological perspective

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Result

#### **Authoritarian Parenting Patterns on Juvenile Delinquency from a Criminological Perspective**

Based on a synthesis of various previous studies, authoritarian parenting exhibits an ambivalent relationship to juvenile delinquency. This pattern is characterized by high levels of

control, demands for absolute obedience, one-way communication, and the use of punishment as the primary instrument of discipline (Nabila, 2025). Parents in this pattern position themselves as the ultimate authority, while children are positioned as those who must follow the rules without much negotiation. This parenting structure generally emphasizes order, discipline, and clear standards of behavior. In several studies, consistent discipline and close supervision have been found to correlate with lower rates of overt delinquency in early adolescents, particularly in violation of school rules, truancy, or other overtly deviant behavior (Azmiyatul, 2025). Adolescents under intensive supervision tend to have limited latitude for open violations. In societies that value obedience to authority, this parenting style is often seen as effective in maintaining children's behavior within social norms.

However, other literature suggests that the application of an extreme authoritarian pattern is actually associated with increased aggression, rebellious tendencies, and hidden delinquency committed outside of parental supervision (Aldora et al., 2022). When control is exercised without dialogue and emotional warmth, adolescents can experience significant psychological distress. This situation has the potential to lead to pent-up anger, feelings of being misunderstood, and a need to secretly seek autonomy. The delinquency that emerges in this context is often covert, such as lying, breaking rules outside the home, or engaging in risky relationships without parental knowledge. Adolescents raised in environments with minimal two-way communication also tend to struggle to develop self-regulation and decision-making skills. Because decisions are always determined by parental authority, children are less trained to consider the moral consequences of their actions independently. In the long term, the obedience that is formed is often external, namely due to fear of punishment, rather than the internalization of personal values and beliefs. This leads to weakened self-control when external supervision is no longer present.

### **Permissive Parenting Patterns on Juvenile Delinquency from a Criminological Perspective**

In contrast to authoritarian parenting, permissive parenting has been more consistently linked to increased juvenile delinquency in various empirical studies. This pattern is characterized by relatively high levels of emotional warmth but minimal boundaries, control, and consistent rules (Lestari, 2025). Parents tend to grant children broad freedom, avoid conflict, and rarely impose firm consequences for behavioral violations. Research findings indicate that adolescents raised in permissive family environments tend to demonstrate weaker self-control, higher impulsivity, and greater vulnerability to peer influence.

The literature also shows that permissive parenting is associated with increased risks of modern forms of delinquency, including cyberbullying, excessive social media use, online fraud, and other digital-based misconduct. Weak parental supervision over adolescents' activities, both offline and online, allows external influences to shape behavior more dominantly. Several studies also indicate that permissive parenting demonstrates a more linear relationship with delinquency because the lack of firm rules and consequences weakens adolescents' ability to internalize social norms consistently.

### **Comparative Analysis of the Influence of Authoritarian and Permissive Parenting Styles**

Literature synthesis shows that both parenting styles contribute to juvenile delinquency through different mechanisms. Both authoritarian and permissive parenting styles demonstrate an imbalance between control and emotional warmth. In authoritarian parenting, excessive control without emotional closeness may create psychological pressure, hidden resistance, and covert delinquency. Conversely, permissive parenting provides emotional acceptance but lacks behavioral boundaries and discipline, resulting in weak self-control and increased susceptibility to external influences.

The findings also indicate that both parenting patterns hinder the optimal process of value internalization. In authoritarian parenting, norms are imposed through fear and punishment,

whereas in permissive parenting, norms are not consistently enforced. Consequently, adolescents in both conditions may experience difficulties in developing stable moral judgment and social responsibility.

### **Discussion**

The findings above can be analyzed through several criminological perspectives. From the perspective of Travis Hirschi's Social Control Theory, deviant behavior emerges when social bonds between adolescents and their families weaken. Hirschi emphasized four important elements, namely attachment, commitment, involvement, and belief. In authoritarian parenting, excessive control without emotional warmth may weaken emotional attachment between parents and adolescents. Although obedience may appear externally, adolescents may fail to internalize family values genuinely. As a result, social control becomes superficial and dependent on supervision rather than self-awareness.

Meanwhile, permissive parenting weakens the elements of commitment and belief because adolescents are not guided through clear and consistent behavioral standards. The absence of firm supervision and consequences reduces adolescents' sense of responsibility toward social norms. Consequently, adolescents become more vulnerable to deviant influences from peers and social environments. The findings can also be explained using Robert K. Merton's Strain Theory. In authoritarian families, rigid rules, high expectations, and restrictions on self-expression can create psychological strain or pressure among adolescents. When adolescents lack healthy communication channels, delinquent behavior may emerge as a form of escape, rebellion, or emotional release. This explains why authoritarian parenting may suppress overt delinquency in the short term but simultaneously encourage hidden or reactive forms of deviance.

In addition, Edwin H. Sutherland's Differential Association Theory helps explain why permissive parenting increases vulnerability to peer influence. Adolescents who receive limited supervision from parents spend more time interacting with peer groups, where deviant behaviors and values may be learned and normalized. This process becomes even more relevant in the digital era, where adolescents can easily access harmful online communities and behaviors without parental monitoring. Conceptually, these findings confirm that juvenile delinquency should not merely be viewed as an individual moral failure, but rather as a reflection of family socialization processes and the quality of parent-child relationships. Families function as the primary institution for developing self-control, discipline, and moral awareness. Therefore, parenting that balances emotional warmth with consistent supervision is more effective in preventing juvenile delinquency than parenting characterized by either excessive control or excessive freedom.

Overall, the discussion demonstrates that authoritarian and permissive parenting styles both contribute to juvenile delinquency through different criminological mechanisms, including weakened social control, psychological strain, and deviant learning processes. Therefore, family-based prevention strategies remain essential in reducing juvenile delinquency and strengthening adolescents' ability to internalize social norms sustainably.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the literature synthesis and criminological analysis, it can be concluded that authoritarian and permissive parenting styles both influence juvenile delinquency, albeit through different mechanisms. Authoritarian parenting styles that emphasize high control and absolute obedience can suppress overt delinquency in the short term, but have the potential to cause emotional tension, resistance, and hidden delinquency if not accompanied by adequate warmth and communication. Conversely, permissive parenting styles that emphasize warmth without firm boundaries tend to weaken discipline, self-control, and internalization of norms, thereby increasing the risk of adolescent involvement in deviant behavior. From a criminological

perspective, these findings align with Travis Hirschi's social control theory, which emphasizes the importance of social bonds in preventing deviance, and Edwin H. Sutherland's differential association theory, which explains that deviant behavior is learned through social interaction. Furthermore, overly repressive family pressure can also be analyzed through Robert K. Merton's strain theory, which highlights the role of social tension in encouraging deviance.

Conceptually, juvenile delinquency is not simply an individual moral issue, but rather the result of the interaction between family structure, socialization processes, and social environmental dynamics. An imbalance between control and warmth in parenting is a major risk factor for delinquency. Therefore, preventing juvenile delinquency within a criminological framework requires positioning the family as the primary agent of social control by emphasizing balanced, communicative, and consistent parenting instilling values and behavioral boundaries. Therefore, this paper emphasizes that the quality of parenting plays a strategic role in shaping self-control and adherence to norms in adolescents, making strengthening family function a fundamental step in efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency sustainably.

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