

## Parental Styles and its Relation to the Scientific Fiction among Gifted students at Al Jubilee School in Jordan

Dr. Eman Saeed Al-bourini /Educational psychology-Cognitive  
Dr. Worud Jamal Al- Al-Awamleh/ Special Education  
Dr. Habis Sulaiman Al-Awamleh/ Educational psychology  
Dr. Nieveen Moh'd Abuzaid / Educational psychology

### Abstract

The purpose of the study was to investigate parental styles and its relation to the scientific fiction among gifted students at Al Jubilee School in Jordan. The study sample consisted of (50) male and female students, (25) male students and (25) female students Al Jubilee School: it is a secondary, two research instrument were used Parental styles scale, and scientific fiction test, which both of them had high validity and reliability indices. The research results were revealed that the popular parenting styles among the gifted students were protection, and permissive, while the (authoritarian, educational control, and the neglect) parenting styles were in the moderate level. Also, the scientific fiction among gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan was in the moderate level. In addition to, there are no significant differences in the scientific fiction due to the student gender. Finally, there were a significant correlation between some of parenting styles and scientific fiction the educational control has a positive correlation with scientific fiction, while the authoritarian parenting style has a negative correlation with scientific fiction

**Keyword:** scientific fiction, parenting styles, gifted students.

### Introduction:

Caring about the gifted is a necessity imposed by the technological and scientific progress, and if this category does not receive the sufficient care that directs it to the right direction, its talents will gradually vanish and extinguish till the gifted individual reaches the normal individual's level.

The gifted individual considers a national wealth with great importance, and should be provided with care to prevent his giftedness from vanishing, from this point, giftedness imposes on the education in its comprehensive concept that includes the house, the school, worship places, the media & the different social and scientific institutions the holy duty towards fostering and developing the gifted children and individual's perceptions.

The family is the first cell in the society and its is responsible for raising and education its sons, the responsibility will increase with the presence of a gifted child in the family because the parents should care about him, and to know his abilities and the work to promote these abilities and facing all the difficulties and barriers that encountering him.

The family represents the weight center in the child's social fostering process because of its great effect on forming his physical, psychological, mental and emotional personality because it is the first human group that that the child deals because it is the first human group that the child deals with, and the role of the family should be organized nature in the social fostering process for from being haphazard and confused so this process will not be subject to different problems in the growth phenomenon it is an important and difficult process and needs great deal of delicate information and the general literacy and the best style in performing it (Hasan, 2008)

Social fostering in its general meaning indicates to the processes that make the individual responds to the social influences as he learns how to live with the others. And in its specific meaning indicates to the processes output in which the individual changes from biological to social being, also, it leads the individual to affirm his status, protection, authority independency and convenient, and learning the customers, and values and practicing it.

Because of the family's active role that influencing the child in all the psychological, social personal, and mental aspects, as the foundation to learn from the familiar environment, developing and motivating the children's fiction starts from the family, since the familiar environment that is rich in the different excitements provides the good conditions for developing the mental capabilities, and fostering thinking that in turn reflects in the fiction, it is activity that starts with the human from his early stages of age that is the family's responsibility only.

Knowing the parental treatments' styles concedes as perceived by the sons more important than studying it as expressed by the parents, because frequently fathers and mothers bring sense acts that express their love to their sons, and at the same time considered by the sons intervening in their special affairs.

Psychologists had interested in developing the individual's mental capabilities including the fiction, since the fiction leads to formulating new picture, and because this picture depends on the individual thinking and on what he has of previous experiences fiction is related to perception and to the previous experience, and contributes to the perception development also motivates the himation to search for achieving the picture he has drown in his imagination (Nashwan, 1993).

The fiction considers one of the most important mental activities that God granted to the human only, so he imaging's things that had no presence before, this fiction considers the start of every creative activity in any field of the literature, scientific or philosophical fields, and it is necessity from the innovation necessities, so its should be developed and cared about in different ways (Kamel, 2006).

Sulaiman (2004) sees that the fiction helps in understanding the scientific concepts, and has the great role in the beginning of the problems solving process, since the child's thinking starts to change from the fiction to more languishing picture in the final stages of the problem solving process, because the fiction helps the mental development and growth.

Mariane & Peter (1999) see the fiction as a purposeful mental process based on building new relations between the previous experiences and organized in a picture of things the individual has no previous experience with it, and the fiction seeks the help of by remembering the past, and benefits from the present to formulate new mental formations in the future.

Khader (2010) identifies the fiction as a psychological activity though which merging and formation process occurs between the memory and perception formations and the metal picture that previously formed through the past experiences, and forming new outputs and mental forms and formations.

Also, Khader (2010) mentions that employing the fiction in the natural sciences which means the scientific fiction, since the fiction is in close relation to the thinking, and since the fiction is one of the mental activities that the individual practices to build new picture, it is considers one of the scientific thinking activities. It is clear though the fiction's previous definitions that the fiction is a mental activity based on re-formulating, modification and blending the previous experiences in the form of a created new mental picture, and it is the output of a created new mental picture such as the memory, perception and retrieval.

The researchers have recommended the development of the children's fiction, also explaining the extent of the need for the scientific raising though promoting their scientific curiosity spirit, and keeping the children's fictions equilibrium towards formation structural imagination, and to make them far from the destructive imagination that keeps them for from the realities world, since the fiction alone can be structural and destructive, and science alone can be difficult to understand and rigid, but being together in the scientific fiction mold is the best way to preserve the child's fictions in the right direction without slipping in the negative direction.

The studies conducted and addressed the effect of fiction and imagination on the students perception of the vocabularies, and sentences have proved that this perception will be better if the imagination is used, by combining the vocabularies with sensory pictures first, then the semi-sensory and understanding and comprehending the knowledge will be minimum if the used words were abstract and do not represent a picture in the learner's mind (Ali, 2005).

Fiction is considered important for the children because it develops the ability to think and leads to innovation that develops the child's ability to perceive the situations, positions, and events, and imagining the available solutions for the problems facing him, in addition to imagining how the future will be and then attempting to improve it.

The individual needs to adapt to the environment and to exploit it to his interest. If the individual is able to perceive the stimulus in his environment, connects between it and reaching new relation between it and imagining what these relations will lead to, he is then reaching the innovation stage. On the other hand, fiction plays the important role in perceiving and comprehending the concepts and the scientific facts, (Nashwan, 1993).

Nashwan (1993) sees that fiction plays important role in developing the children's thinking, because it is in connection with the thinking and interact with it to produce modes of experiences never experienced before, and as a result of this perpetual interaction between the fiction and the thinking the cognitive in its types crystallizes and the capability raises to deal with it that reflects on the child's understanding and perception about what is going around him from events, and what he extracts from it from new knowledge, he learns experience in each from his life, and acquires the knowledge as a result of his interaction with the up-date in the situations, and by the fiction his ability grow and develops to distinguish and to compare between these information and imagining how the knowledge will be in the future.

Through pervious research review there were no direct studies founded in term of th relationship between the parenting styles and scientific fiction, thus, the resrach present the previous research in two main categories the first one focused on the parenting styles Hasan (2008) has conducted a study that aimed to know the parental

treatment styles and its relationship with the psychological identity, study sample consisted of (251) male and female students from AK 'a city schools in Palestine, (88) male students and (163) female students. Results revealed the presence of correlation with statistical significance between the democratic father treatment style and the holding of the identity in the social dimension, and the presence of correlation between the authoritarian fathers treatment style and the identity introversion in the social dimension, and the father's unrestrained style was with negative correlating with both holding and introversion identity in the social dimension. Also, the study revealed the presence of the negative correlation between the democratic father's treatment and the identity introversion in the ideological dimension, and there was no correlation between the authoritarian father's treatment style with any of the psychological identity formation dimensions, and mentioned that the most common parental treatment styles is the democratic style.

Furthermore, Al Sufyani (2006) Study aimed to know the extent of the relation between the parental styles and the behavior interaction of the students with the social orientation, and the differences between them in the behavioral interaction. Study sample consisted of (162) normal students and (200) students from the social orientation. Behavioral interaction measure was used and the parental treatment styles measure, results revealed that the guiding and the orienting style was the most contributing to the deviation of the students' behavioral interaction.

In addition to Al Fawarseh (2006) conducted a study to know the parental treatment styles as perceived by the sons and its relationship with their emotional intelligence. Study sample consisted of (500) male and female students. The researcher has used two measures: The parental treatment styles measure and the emotional intelligence measure. Results revealed the presence of a relationship between the educational control style and the emotional intelligence, also pointed to the presence of differences with statistical significance between the parental treatment (educational control) attribute to the gender variable in favor of the males.

Moreover, Duriez, Soensens & Vansteenkiste (2007) conducted a study about the effect of the parent's encouragement on the goals setting and the parental treatment style on both the adolescents being subject to the authority and orientation towards the social control. The results pointed to the parental treatment style ability with degree in predicting the adolescents submission to the authority, since the democratic parental treatment style did not correlate with both the adolescents submission to the authority and the orientation towards the social control, while the dictatorial treatment style is correlated directly with both the adolescents submission to authority and the orientation towards the social control but at a moderate level.

While the second group of previous studies focused on scientific fiction, in this manner Mahmood (2003) conducted on experimental study about the linguistic innovative development program through the scientific fiction narratives for the first preparatory grade students in Egypt, students were divided into experimental and control groups, and a linguistic innovative measure was prepared relating to the scientific fiction, post and pre measures were used to compare the individuals performance level before and after the program though the scores they had achieved at this scale, the results revealed the program's effectiveness in developing the linguistic innovative skills relating to the scientific fiction of the sample's individuals, and found differences with statistical significance between the students' scores means in the experimental and control groups in the post and pre application of linguistic innovation scale related to the scientific fiction in the innovative thinking skills, and the total sum of the scale in favor of the experimental group.

Also, Bucher (2001) conducted a study that application the teachers on the use of the scientific fiction inside the classroom, teacher's guide was prepared that included the scientific fiction definition, its evolution, topics and how to use the scientific fiction in the classroom in a good way, and applied to a sample of the secondary stage teachers in England, results showed the teachers increased awareness about the methods and the strategies of the scientific fiction inside the classroom.

Abramas (2002) conducted a study that aimed to train the students on writing the scientific fiction narratives through the scientific fiction journals. The researcher prepared program that consisted of a different number of scientific fiction journals in which he used some a companied activities and applied to a sample from the intermediate stage students, scientific fiction's concepts & evolution were explained inside the classroom, students were helped in selecting the relevant scientific fiction narratives from the journals proposed by the researcher and were discussed with the students. When finishing the program application the students wrote scientific fiction narratives based on the narratives existed in the journals so as the original narrative will be included in their works in a scientific manner, and at the end the students exchange their stories inside the classroom.

Finally, Upadhyay (2005) study aimed to test the effect of using the fiction on developing the students experiences in the daily life to learn the science subject, students sample was collected from the fourth and the fifth grader from eight elementary schools in Minnesota state. The interviews and the video toping methods were

used as the study instrument. The results showed that the fiction has helped the students to connect the absolute scientific conceptions with their experiences in the daily life that enhanced their understanding of these concepts and their ability to apply it in the real life, also the use of fiction helped in learning enhancement and achievement in the class in which the students study from different backgrounds and abilities.

Because of the importance of the scientific fiction for the children it became necessary to care about developing their fiction to bring them to the innovative degree during learning all the sciences fields, and motivates them towards learning more, and achieving what is in their minds of pictures, this is one of the modern scientific education's goals, because of this.

This study came to explore the level of the scientific fiction of the Jubilee School students and the work to develop it.

#### **Study problem:**

Because of the importance and the scarce studies and research's that connecting between these two variables, which are the parental treatment and the scientific fiction level, this study came to attempt to investigate the both variables and the level of the relationship between them.

The study will answer the following questions:

1. What are the parental treatment styles that are most common as perceived by the gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan?
2. What is the level of the scientific fiction of the gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan?
3. Are there differences with statistical significance at significance level ( $0.05=\alpha$ ) in the scientific fiction attribute to the sex variable of the gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan?
4. Is there a correlation relationship with statistical significance at significance level ( $0.05=\alpha$ ) between the parental treatment style (educational control, authoritarian, dropout, neglect, over protection), and the scientific fiction level of the gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan?

#### **Study Importance:**

Study importance stems from the variables importance, which are the parental treatment and the scientific fiction and their relationship with each other's in the roles that should be performed by the educational institutions and the families in order to develop the scientific fiction.

#### **Study limitations and determinants:**

- Temporal limitation: the study is conducted during the first scholastic term from the present scholastic year 2012-2013.
- Spatial limitation: the study is applied to the tenth grade students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan.
- Study Sample: was limited to the sample that consisted of (50) male and female students from the gifted students at Jubilee School in Jordan.
- Study Instruments: Two measures were applied in this study: Parental treatment measure of Jubilee (2006) and the other measure is the scientific fiction test that the researchers will develop.

#### **Study methodology:**

The researcher has selected the descriptive correlation method because of its relevance to the study goals.

#### **Study subjects:**

The researchers have applied the study to know the parental treatment styles and the scientific fiction level of the gifted students in the Al-Jubilee School in Jordan. Study sample consisted of (50) male and female students, (25) male students and (25) female students.

Al Jubilee School: it is a secondary independent non public and non for profit mixed residential school, introduces on integrated and balanced educational program for the high academic achievers for a period of four years (from the ninth basic till the second secondary, maximum (25) male and female students in one branch), the school attracts it students from all over the kingdom and from different social, economic and cultural environments (Jarwan, 2012).

#### **Study Instruments:**

##### **The first instrument: parental treatment style scale, its validity and consistency:**

**Parental treatment styles:** are a set of psychological and social methods practiced by the parents in dealing with their sons as perceived by the sons (educational control, authoritarian, neglect, over protection and careless) (Alfawarseh, 2006).

**Procedural:** is the degree that examines receives at the parental treatment styles scale.

The researchers have used the scale mentioned in Alfawarseh study (2006) that enjoys high validity and consistency, and measures the parental treatment styles as perceived by the sons. The total consistency

coefficient of the instrument in Alfawarseh study reached (0.82). The scale in its final form consists of selecting the relevant affirmative to the situation applies to him.

Alfawarseh (2006) has previously affirmed the scale's validity through introducing it to the specialized arbiters, and the items that have been agreed upon accredited by the arbitration members by (80%) from the arbiter's opinions, also the needed modifications to the items were made.

Scales consistency was affirmed by extracting the scale's consistency by test-retest, he tested (30) male and female students from outside of the study sample who expressed their understanding of the scale's items, and after two weeks the study was applied another time to know the consistency and the total consistency coefficient was (0.82%).

Regarding the researchers' affirmation of the validity and consistency of the instrument in the current study it was introduced to (10) of the specialized arbiters in the educational psychology, special education, psychological and family counseling & social science, they were asked to give their opinions regarding the scale's items, and none of the arbiters has made significant modifications on the scale, the modifications were limited to some dictation errors.

Also, the researchers tested the scale's consistency in the current study by using two methods: by extracting the internal correspondence coefficient by using Cronbach's Alpha equation, the values ranged from (0.78-0.89) secondly by using the repetition way, since the scale was applied to a sample consisted of (15) male and female students, and re-applied after two weeks, the values ranged from (0.80-0.87).

**The second instrument: testing the scientific fiction, its validity and consistency:**

**Fiction:** is a mental activity based on imaging omnipresent things, based on the past and present experience that clarify the past and improve the present and develop the future (Kamel, 2006).

**Scientific Fiction:** Employing the fiction in the natural sciences, what is meant by is the scientific fiction, since the fiction is in strong correlation with the thinking, and it's one of the activities practiced by the individual to build a new picture, and is considered one of the scientific thinking activities.

**Procedurally:** it is the score the examinee has attained on the scientific fiction test that developed for this purpose.

The researchers have developed the test to measure the scientific fiction level based on the scales and the tests mentioned in the studies and the theoretical literature and the previous practical literature. In its final form the scale consisted of (32) items, each item includes one of the used means in our life, and each mean was expressed by the pictures and the written expression, so it becomes clear to the examinee the characteristics of each mean and its usage and way of its work. In front of each man a sufficient space was left for the examinee to express his fiction either by drawing or the written expression, they were asked to imagine what each will be meaning in the future. Also, the students were given the sufficient time to express their fictions against each mean. An example was given at the beginning of the test and answered to bachelor for the examinees how to respond to the test.

Examinees were noticed that there is no wrong answer and the answer itself gives a score, the items mentioned in the test included: transport means, communication means, living means, and technological means.

**Test Validity:**

The test is extracted through the arbiters' validity, by presenting it to a set of specialized in education, psychology and special education, the scientific subjects curriculum and teaching methods, these specialists have presented their opinions about the scale's items, the items that agreed upon its irrelevance were omitted, and the scale in its initial form consisted of (35) item, and in its final form from (32) items, and though distributed it to a set of students from outside of the study sample, the examinees showed their responses to the scale and its items were clear to them.

**Test reliability:**

Test consistency was extracted by two ways: firstly by the reputation way by selecting a survey random sample from the study population (Al-Jubilee School Students) from outside of the sample, then applying the test to them and calculating their scores, and after two weeks the test is applied another time, consistency coefficient was obtained through the half partitioning way using Pearson equation to calculate the consistency, and this coefficient reached (0.85) that value considered sufficient for the study purpose.

**Study result:**

**First question:** What are the parenting styles that are most common as perceived by the gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan?

To answer the question means standard deviation were calculated for each parenting styles, and table (1) shows the results.

Table 1. Means standard deviation were calculated for each parenting styles.



Parenting style	Means	Std	Level
over protection	4.10	1.01	High
Permissive	3.90	1.74	High
authoritarian	3.56	1.86	Moderate
educational control	2.99	1.52	Moderate
Neglect	2.41	1.10	Moderate

From the table (1) the parenting styles among gifted student were in the over protection, and permissive styles with means and STD (4.10, 1.01, 3.90, 1.74) respectively, which were in the high levels. Also the authoritarian, educational control, and the neglect) parenting styles were in the moderate levels with means and STD (3.56, 1.86, 2.99, 1.52, 2.41, 1.10) respectively, this means that the popular parenting styles among the gifted students were protection, and permissive.

**Second question:** What is the level of the scientific fiction of the gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan?

To answer the question means standard deviation were calculated for each scientific fiction, and table (2) shows the results.

Table 2. Means standard deviation were calculated for scientific fiction.

Fiction	Means	Std	Level
Total	15.74	1.95	Moderate

From the table (2) the means of the scientific fiction level among the sample of gifted students was (15.74) with STD of 1.95 according to norms for the scores range this means consider in the moderate level, so the level of the scientific fiction of the gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan was in the moderate level.

**Third questions:** Are there differences with statistical significance at significance level ( $0.05=\alpha$ ) in the scientific fiction attribute to the gender variable of the gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan?

To answer this question independent t-test was conducted, the result shown in table

Table 3. Independent sample t test for the difference in the fiction attribute to the sex variable of the gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan

Gender	N	Means	STD	T value	Sig
Male	25	15.20	2.10	1.76	0.083
Female	25	16.28	2.22		

From the table (3) the mean of scientific fiction among male sample (15.20) with STD of 2.10, while the means for the female sample 16.28 with STD 2.22, to find the means difference is statistically significant. Independent sample t test was conducted, the result shown the value was 1.76 with p level 0.083, that indicates there is no statistically significance level ( $0.05=\alpha$ ) in the scientific fiction attribute to the gender variable of the gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan.

**Forth question:** Is there a correlation relationship with statistical significance at significance level ( $0.05=\alpha$ ) between the parental treatment style (educational control, authoritarian, dropout, neglect, over protection), and the scientific fiction level of the gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan?

To answer of this question Pearson correlation was calculated to find the relationship between the parental treatment style (educational control, authoritarian, dropout, neglect, over protection), and the scientific fiction level of the gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan.

Table 4. Pearson correlation was between the parental treatment style (educational control, authoritarian, dropout, neglect, over protection), and the scientific fiction level of the gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan.

Parenting style	scientific fiction	
	R	Significant
educational control	0.66	0.01
Authoritarian	-0.40	0.01
Permissive	0.06	0.30
Neglect	0.03	0.38
over protection	0.07	0.32

From the table (4) there were a significant correlation between some of parenting styles and scientific fiction, the (educational control, Authoritarian), and scientific fiction ( $R= 0.66, -0.40, P \leq 0.05$ ) the educational control has a positive correlation with scientific fiction, while the authoritarian parenting style has a negative correlation with

scientific fiction. Also the results shown that there are no significant correlation between (Permissive, Neglect, and over protection) with the with scientific fiction, the ( $R= 0.06, 0.03, \text{ and } 0.07, P \geq 0.05$ ) this indicates for the correlation between Permissive, Neglect, and over protection have no correlation with scientific fiction the among the gifted sample.

### **Result discussion:**

This study aimed to investigate the parenting styles that are most common as perceived by the gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan, besides to, to find the level of scientific fiction, and its correlation to the parenting styles. Four study questions were asked and the result for the first question revealed that the popular parenting styles among the gifted students were protection, and permissive, while the (authoritarian, educational control, and the neglect) parenting styles were in the moderate level. These results are consistent with the fund of Duriez, Soenens & Vansteenkiste (2007) study which found the authority and the orientation towards the social control but at a moderate level. The possible explanation for these results could be seen from the culture point of view, since the Arab culture, which gives a great attention to their children, and fulfill the child's need as part of the common values, and as a reward to their successes in the school. In some cases the parents overprotect their children by narrowing the opportunity to try new experiences, and meet the needs required by them, in addition to, such parent practice consider a way to show love and care for their children. In other case, parents may give their children irresponsible freedom as way to show trust and interest, in both case the child may feel insecure, and anxious due to the lack of boundaries and responsible freedom as well.

Furthermore, the second question results indicate that the level of the scientific fiction among gifted students at Al-Jubilee School in Jordan was in the moderate level, the explanation for this result, maybe related to curriculum activities, which it may lack to imagination activities, since most of curriculum content focus on teaching facts and knowledge, with little space for mental innovations, and scientific fiction. This may also be seen according to the expectation related to the gifted students who should focus on academic task without wasting time on the extra task outside the academic scope at in the school.

Moreover, the result of the third question revealed that there is no significant differences in the scientific fiction due to the student gender. Due to the lack of research that covered this result, the researcher will use their own understanding base on the literature to justify this result, both male and female live in the same culture context, and they are exposure to same educational and culture system, which hamper or encourage scientific fiction among them, while in case of gifted student both male and female when they enroll in the acceleration programs, they both espouse to the same material and activities, which help both of them to boost their scientific fiction.

In addition to, the result of the third question revealed that there were a significant correlation between some of parenting styles and scientific fiction the educational control has a positive correlation with scientific fiction, while the authoritarian parenting style has a negative correlation with scientific fiction. Also the results shown that there are no significant correlation between (Permissive, Neglect, and over protection) with the scientific fiction, this indicates for the correlation between Permissive, Neglect, and over protection have no correlation with scientific fiction the among the gifted sample.

The explanations about this result are the psychological function of educational control parenting style in creating security and freedom for gifted student to use and express their imagination without any restrictions, because of the flexible, and acceptable family environment, that encourage and respect the individualism among children, all of these health psychological factors contribute positively to imagination freedom, with positively related to scientific fiction.

### **Recommendations:**

According to the research results the following recommendations are suggested:

1. Conducting parenting skills training to foster the positive parenting styles, which have an impact on the parent cognitive function and imaginations.
2. It's important to enrich the gifted student informal activities, with scientific fiction, in order to boost this ability among them
3. Conduct future research to find the correlation between scientific fiction and other cognitive factors.

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