

Introduction:

Childhood is a significant stage in man's life, as the early childhood years have a great importance in bringing up the child and the one's prospective life... parents play an important and critical role in preparing their children for life and formulating their personalities that affect all the sides of their life, future, their personal and social adjustment.

Compassionate parenting seeks for creating a positive and effective environment between parents and children, an environment that is full of love, passion, safety, empathy, emotions control and regulation, conflict resolution between them in democratic way; encouraging, and developing autonomy and creating the models and ideals for them. Such safe and democratic environment is a fertile and appropriate environment for developing assertiveness among children and creating assertive and positive children in their social relations, feeling self-confident, and having the ability to defend their basic rights and expressing their feelings. All these serve in formulating the personalities and development of the children; their mental, emotional and social adjustment, that is the ultimate goal of any compassionate parents.

The problem of the study:

The problem of the present study can be stated by answering the following questions:

- 1- Does Compassionate parenting as perceived by children differ with the difference of their assertiveness level?
- 2- Does compassionate parenting as perceived by children differ between the rural and the urban children?
- 3- Does compassionate parenting as perceived by children differ with gender (male-female)?

- 4- Does the assertiveness level differ between the rural and the urban children?
- 5- Does assertiveness level differ with gender (male- female)?.

The significance of the study:

- The Theoretical Importance:

The importance of the present study emerges from:

- 1- Handling the late childhood stage, that is the most important stage in the process of socialization and assimilating values and attitudes.
- 2- The importance of the subject researched, that is compassionate parenting as perceived by children and its relationship to their assertiveness, that has a great impact on their personalities; their mental, emotional, and social development and achieving their psychological adjustment.
- 3- Handling an essential and basic side of personality, that is the emotional side, and how to develop and regulate emotions among children in a positive way to help them form their emotional identity that influence their personalities, their positiveness, and their ability to defend their basic rights without harming others; that is what assertiveness really mean.
- 4- The paucity of the Arabic studies that handle compassionate parenting.
- 5- This study adds to the psychological literature.

- The Practical Importance:

- 1- Providing many suggestions and recommendations for parents to use with their children at the present stage and the following stage.
- 2- This study provides techniques for the parenting skills (providing the emotional basis for dealing with children, the ability to regulate emotions, controlling them, managing anger, getting rid of the

negative emotions and replacing them with positive ones; counseling and helping them, modifying their behaviour, developing their positive behaviour, and allowing them to be themselves).

*** The objectives of the Study:**

The present study aims at:

- 1- Recognizing the relationship between compassionate parenting as perceived by children and their level of assertiveness.
- 2- Recognizing the differences between the rural and the urban children in compassionate parenting as perceived by children.
- 3- Recognizing the differences between males and females in compassionate parenting as perceived by children.
- 4- Recognizing the differences between the rural and the urban children in the level of assertiveness.
- 5- Recognizing the differences between males and females in the level of assertiveness.

*** The study terminology:**

1- Compassionate parenting:

Is the parents' emotional reaction to and interaction with their children through providing the safe emotional basis for discovering the nature of the children's emotions, cooperating with them, valuing them, allowing them to themselves that motivates them to progress in all the life fields (*Ismail Badr, 2002: 3*).

Operationally defined as: the score that the children get on the compassionate parenting scale for children (*Prepared by Ismail Badr*).

2- Assertiveness:

Is the social skill, the positiveness in social relationships, the ability to practice freedom in expressing views, the ability to control emotions and the ability to ask for the rights of the individual without offending or harming others' rights.

3- The late childhood stage:

The children with age ranges from 9-12 years.

*** The Sample of the Study:**

The study was administered to 240 children divided into four branch groups represented in: 60 rural males, 60 urban males, 60 rural females, and 60 Urban females.

*** *The Tools of the Study:***

- 1- The compassionate parenting As perceived by children scale (Prepared by/ Ismail Badr, 2002).
- 2- The Assertiveness scale for children (Prepared by the present researcher).

7- *The Statistical Methods:*

The SPSS was used to Process the data, and specifically the following tests were used:

- The correlation Coefficient.
- T-test.

*** *The Results:***

- 1- There's a positive correlation between compassionate parenting as perceived by children and their level of assertiveness.

- 2- There's a statistically significant difference between the mean scores of the rural and urban children on compassionate parenting as perceived by children, in favour of the urban children.
- 3- There's a statistically significant difference between the mean score of the rural and urban children on assertiveness, in favour of the urban children.
- 4- There's a statistically significant difference between the mean scores of males and females on compassionate parenting as perceived by children, in favour of males.
- 5- There's a statistically significant difference between the mean scores of males and females on assertiveness, in favour of males.