

The Role of Parenting Composition on Deviance

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RESEARCH QUESTION

Do nuclear families raise children who are less deviant than those of other parenting techniques?

Do children become less deviant if they are encouraged to parent themselves and make their own choices?

GOTTFREDSON AND HIRSCHI: SELF-CONTROL THEORY

- Behavior is the result of pursuing pleasure and avoiding pain
- Low-self control leads to criminal acts and deviant behavior
- Parents are the ones who must teach their children self-control

METHODS

We identified case studies of adults whose parents used the following different methodologies to raise them:

- Nuclear family dynamic: two parents actively involved in child-rearing
- Absent parenting: parents took a hands-off approach and allowed their child to parent themselves
- Collective parenting: a community collectively helped raise a child

We used publicly available sources to create a matched sample with the following characteristics:

- Geographic Location: Western civilization
- Socioeconomic class: lower and middle class
- Birth year: children born between 1970 and 1980—a period of pronounced change in alternative communities.

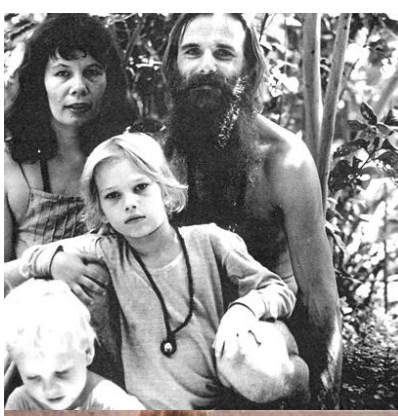
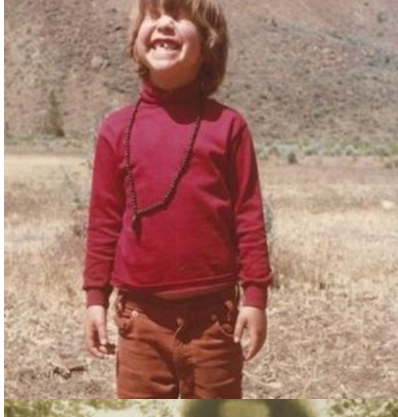

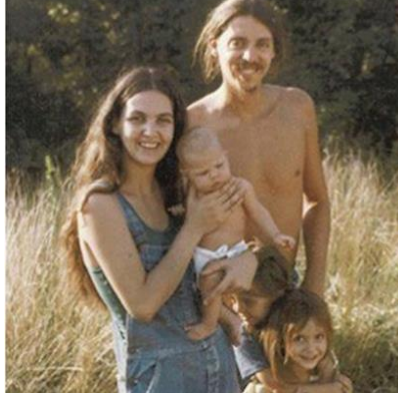
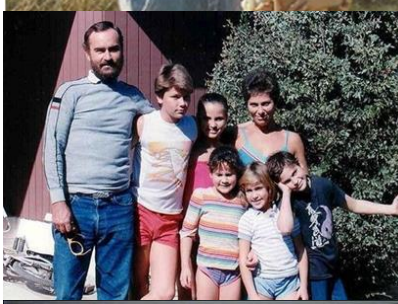

DEFINING DEVIANCE

Deviance is defined as “as behavior, beliefs, and characteristics that violate society’s, or a collectivity’s, norms, the violation of which tends to attract negative reactions from one or more audiences” (Goode, 2019).

Indicators of deviant behavior:

- Criminal activity
- Risky behavior such as underage drinking and sexual activity

SAMPLE

Case Study	Birth Year	Parenting style	Organization Affiliation	Years Involved	Deviant as a child	Deviant as an adult
 Noa M.	1972	Absent and Nuclear	Rajneeshee	1976- 1982	Yes	No
 Hira B.	1974	Absent	Rajneeshee	1981-1985 with continued involvement after disbandment of Oregon settlement	No	No
 Rena.	1973	Collective and Nuclear	The Farm	1972 -1985	No	No
 Erika A.	1980	Collective	The Farm	1980-Present	No	No
 Joaquin P.	1974	Absent and Nuclear	Children of God-The Family	1974-1979	Yes	Yes
 Richard R.	1975	Absent	Children of God-The Family	1975- 2000	Yes	Yes

* Control Variables: Location (Western society); socioeconomic class (low and middle class); and birth year (1970-1980)

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The findings suggest the absent style parenting influence deviance more than collective style parenting and the nuclear family dynamic. Furthermore, collective style parenting suggested the best outcome.

- Three out of four cases who were raised at least partially with absent parents exhibited deviant behavior in childhood.
 - Underage drinking, sexual activity, killing animals
- Two out of six cases demonstrated deviance in adulthood, both of which came from absent style parenting.
 - Murder/suicide, arrest record for protesting
- The two cases that were raised with collective style parenting did not display deviance at any point thus far in their lives.

LIMITATIONS

Limitations of our study:

- Sample was not randomly selected
- Geographic location was broadened to include all Western civilization
- Socioeconomic class was broadened to include lower and middle class

REFERENCES

This research was informed by peer reviewed articles, scholarly articles, and media sources. A list of references is available upon request.

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