The Role of Parenting Composition on Deviance

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?

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

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

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.

SAMPLE

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

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

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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