

CHAPTER IV

DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

As mentioned in chapter II, this study utilized the questionnaire technique as a method of gathering data. All items on child rearing practices were from the study of Devereux, Bronfenbrenner and Suci (1). Some items on parents' expectation were adopted from Bosen's study (13). The writer has changed the scales of original items of the latter study and added a few more items. The readers might expect to see the comparative findings to those above studies. However, it is impossible to draw any comparison or generalization for the population because the subjects of this study were drawn from one school only. Therefore, the writer will discuss the findings of this study in a limited scope and will make interpretation as regards the school with a middle class population.

"Nurture" and "Instrumental companionship" Behavior.

The reader will see from chapter III that both boys and girls feel that they receive more "Nurture" behavior from their mothers than their fathers. Percentages of adolescent males who stated that "I can talk with her (mother) about everything" and (mother) comforts me and help me when I have troubles" exceeds the percentages of females' responses to the same items. This finding, therefore, demonstrates that Thai adolescents especially males, have a closer relationship to their mothers than their fathers. However, fathers were perceived by both males and females as "Instrumental companionship" more than mothers.

"Punishment" Behavior

With regard to type of punishment the writers has devided them into 3 categories as Devereux, Bronfenbrenner and Suci did in their study. These three a categories of punishment:are "Principled Discipline", "Physical Punishment" and "Punishment by deprivation of privileges". Our findings show that both mothers and fathers of adolescent males and females seldom or never use physical punishment. Only 2.11 percent of females and 4.08 percent of males reported that they were sometimes slapped by their fathers. The percentages of males and females range from 2.04-12.63 are those who said that their father and mothers spank them sometimes. Most parents tend to apply "Principled disciplne" all the time or most of the time. This means that they give justified reasons to their children before they punishthem. Since there is no statistically significant difference between males' and females' perception on this issue, it would seem to suggest that the adolescents of both sexes are treated equally regarding punishment.

Both males and females perceived that their mothers and fathers sometimes nag, scold and yell at them. They feel that this behavior appears mong mothers than fathers. Percentages of mothers' "Expressive rejection" behavior as perceived by male adolescents all the time or most of the time are quite the same as perceived by female adolescents. Only 2.11 percent of males and 6.12 of females reported that their fathers nag at them and 48 percent of females reported their mothers nag at them sometimes while 34 percent of both sexes perceive their fathers in the same behavior category. None of the adolescents perceive that their fathers scold and yell at them all the time or most of the time, 37.89 percent of male adoles-

cents and 34 percent of female adolescents state that their mother scold them and yell at them sometimes. The percentages of males and females who said that their parents seldom or never nag at them or scold and yell at them ranged from 48.42 to 81.63 percent. These findings suggest that Thai adolescents feel psychologically rejected from their mother more than their fathers. The data also indicates that this type of feeling is more prevalent among females.

"Prescription of Responsibility" and "Power" Behavior

Both males and females perceived that their mothers impose more responsibilities upon them than their fathers do. The data in table 16 shows that there are statistically significant differences between fathers' and mothers' behaviors. This is the same type of behavior as found in Germany where the parents of the opposite sex play a more important role than that of the same sex. American children report that their parents of the same sex impose responsibilities upon them. It is also interesting to note that the mothers' "power" behavior were also rated by adolescents higher than their fathers with regard to the same behavior. The difference is statistically significant. Most males and females reported their parents' behavior in this category largely in the "all the time and most of the time" column. There are statistically significant differences ($p < .05$) between fathers' and mothers' behavior "Insists that I get permission first before I go to a cinema, carnival or some other entertainment" and "wants to know exactly how I spend my money when I want to buy some little things for myself" as perceived by females while males stated the difference only for the latter behavioral item. From these findings one may hypothesize that among middle class families in Bangkok, mothers play a more important

and active role in child rearing practices. However, before we can draw any generalization, a further study is needed to obtain adequate information in this area.

"Achievement pressure" Behavior

Regarding "Achievement pressure" behavior both male and female adolescents reported their mothers tend to put more pressure on them with regard to achievement than their fathers, especially regarding school achievement. The difference between fathers' and mothers' behavior is statistically significant ($p < .02$). The percentages of males and females who are subjected to achievement pressure of their parents all the time or most of the time are over 40 percent. 60.26 percent of males and 46 percent of females reported that their mothers insisted that they get particularly good marks in school all the time or most of the time. We see that there is a marked difference between percentages of males' and females' responses to this item ($p < .05$). Males and females also perceived their fathers' behavior with regard to the same behavioral category differently (55.79 percent of males, 41.66 percent of females).

From the findings which were reported in TABLE 4-21 and in the foregoing discussion, one may conclude that the study unfolds some answers to the questions 1.1 and 1.2 on the list of purposes of this study (pp. 4-5).

This study indicates that generally, middle class adolescent of both sexes perceived their parents' behavior similarly. There is not much difference between males' and females' perception except regarding a few behavioral categories. Adolescents also perceived that their fathers' and mothers' behaviors toward them are quite the same. The difference between fathers' and mothers' behavior, as it exists, is not too great.

The detailed information on the differences are as follows:-

1. There is a statistically significant difference between males' and females' perception of their fathers' "nurturance" behavior "I can talk with him about everything "and" Is there for me when I need him". The percentages of males' perception exceed the percentages of females."

2. There is a statistically significant difference between male and female adolescents' perceptions of their mothers' achievement pressure behavior "Insists that I get particularly good marks in school" 65.26 percent of male adolescents and 46 percent of females on this same behavioral category males perceived their fathers' and mothers' behavior differently.

3. Only female adolescents perceive that their mothers, as punishment, take their favorite things away. However, the percentage is small (2 percent).

4. Expressive rejection "behavior of fathers also was perceived differently between male and female adolescents (P .01).

5. There is a discrepancy between fathers' and mothers' "prescription of responsibility" behavior as perceived by adolescents of both sexes (P .05). Mother as perceived by males and females seem to impose more responsibility on them than father do.

6. Fathers' and mothers' "Power" behavior as perceived by adolescent are statistically significantly different. Both males and females tend to perceive their mothers' behavior as higher than fathers' behavior with regard to "power".

Parents' Expectation, rewards and punishment Behavior.

One of the purposes of this study is to find out how male and female adolescents perceive their parents' behavior as regards expectation reward and punishment toward school achievement of their children. The detailed

findings were presented in tables 22 and 23. The reader will find the differences between males' and females' perception of their fathers and mothers "expressive rejection" behavior "when I get low marks she (he) blames me and nags at me". The positive reinforcement behavior of mothers "When I get high marks she praises me" are so so perceived differently between males and females. Males seem to receive positive reinforcement from their mothers more than females do (60 percent of males reported that their mothers praised them all the time or most of the time when they get high marks). The percentages of parents who used money or other material things as an incentive for their children's good school performance are also substantial. Percentage range of males and females who reported that their parents give money or something else to them "all the time" or "most of the time", or "sometimes" is between 19.60-39.21. 48 percent of males' and females' responses are quite similar for other types of their parents behavior regarding expectation reward and punishment toward school achievement. There is no statistically significant difference.

Are there any difference between fathers' and mothers' behaviors as regards expectation reward and punishment of their children for school achievement as perceived by adolescents?

Males perceived no difference between their fathers' and mothers' behaviors while females stated the differences of their parents' expectation behavior. 29.41 percent of females reported that their mothers expect too much of them all the time while only 19.60 percent mentioned their fathers did. The percentages of females who perceived that their mothers were dissatisfied with their work all the time or most of the time is 9.8 while only 2 percent of females reported the same for their fathers.

It is also interesting to note that only a small percentage of males and females reported their parents are not interested in whether they study or not.

These findings suggest that middle class parents, generally, expect their sons and daughters to do well in school. However, the achievement pressure was put on males more than females. This was confirmed by the response of the males to items "When I get high marks she (he) praises me" and "When I get high marks she (he) gives me something", males received more praise and incentives than females did. The same is true on expressive punishment behavior of their parents.

One may hypothesize that the degree of anxieties and fantasies would be more prevalent among males than among females. The data in TABLE 24 validates this hypothesis. There is a marked difference between males' and females' responses to items "I am afraid that my mother will be angry with me when I get low mark" and "I am afraid that my father will be angry with me when I get low mark" ($p < .05$). Over fifty percent of males reports that they are afraid that their parents will be angry with them when they get low marks. The percentage of male adolescents who responded positively to item "when I am in school I always fantasy that I get high mark also exceeds the percentage of females ($p < .01$).

It would be interesting to measure adolescents' anxieties & fantasies toward school achievement through other means. A further study employing a larger number of subjects is needed to explore more carefully in this area in order to provide a basis for generalization.

Adolescents' Perceptions of " My Self" "My mother" and" My father"

The graphs which present the adolescents images of "Myself" "My mother" and "My father" indicate that subjects of both sexes perceive themselves positively. However, females' perception about themselves are more positive than males'. (Figure 1, 2 and 3)

This finding again demonstrates that males seem reluctant to rate themselves in positive way. Most boys tend to rate themselves neutral on many scales.

A futher study which will probe into the cause of this difference in "self" perception among male and female adolescents would seem to be valuable.

How do adolescents perceive their parents? The results show that both boys and girls perceive their fathers and mothers positively. There is little descrepancy in degree between male and female subjects' perception of their fathers and mothers.

These findings seem to correspond with the results which were obtained by the questionnaire technique. Both males' and females' perception of their fathers' and mothers behaviors are mostly similar.