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## Predicting Children Citizenship Skills based on Family Communication Patterns and Parents Self-efficacy

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### Abstract

The purpose of this study was predicting children citizenship skills based on family communication patterns and parent self-efficacy. This research was correlational and of type analysis of regression. 352 preschool students of the city of Shiraz were selected using random multi clustering sampling method. The children parents completed Family Communication Patterns Questionnaire, Citizenship Skills Questionnaire, and Parent Self-efficacy Scale. The data were analyzed by Person correlational coefficient and multivariate regression analysis statistical methods, and SPSS-22 software. The results that there is a positive and significant correlation between citizenship skills and parent self-efficacy (components), and conversation communication pattern and in control and inspection efficacy to predict citizenship skills positively and significantly, while conformity orientation pattern, harsh conditions efficacy, school problem efficacy, and protection efficacy cannot predict citizenship skills. According to these findings it can be concluded that family communication patterns and parent self-efficacy play an efficient role in children citizenship skills.

**Keywords:** Citizenship skills, parent self-efficacy, family communication patterns, children

### Extended Abstract

#### Introduction

Citizenship has constantly been considered as one of important issues in social and educational studies. Citizen and citizenship largely rely on particular condition of the society and country. Today not only governments are strategies in community major system, but also those people who are responsible, critical, and patriot, namely responsible citizens, play crucial

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and significant role in this respect (Teymournezhad, Youzbashi, & Ebrahimi, 2017). Learning concepts in childhood which is one of the fundamental goals of education is a basis for growing a good citizen alongside raising life spirit peacefully. Citizen skills include abilities, values, and interactions seem to be essential for a better adulthood life. It is a multidimensional approach that improves individual capabilities, increases social-mental capacity and empowers individuals (FathiVajargah & VahedChoukdeh, 2006). Emotional aspects of parents and children relationships play an important role in forming children behavior and perspectives. Also, family affects and penetrates into different dimensions of the growth enormously. Self-restraint and sense of value in children can be affected by family member attitudes towards them, particularly parents (Khajeh, Aghdalepurpour, & Hosseinchari, 2009). Family communication pattern is one the issues concerned by researchers and scholars remarkably because of its importance and impacts. Further its relationship with human characteristics is considered and confirmed too. Fitzpatrick and Ritchie (1994) have defined two basic dimensions: "conversation orientation" refers to the degree which all families' members are encouraged to interact and communicate about the wide range of topics freely and easily (Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 1997) and "conformity orientation" refers to the degree which families expects uniformity of beliefs, attitudes, values, and behaviors. They explained four types of family communication patterns—consensual family, family pluralistic, protective family and laissez-faire family (Kouroshnia & Latifian, 2007) based on these dimensions. Self-efficacy is a key factor in the constructive system of human competency. Performing duties by different people with similar skills in various situations weakly, averagely or strongly or by a person in a different circumstance relies on their self-efficacy beliefs modifications. Therefore, sense of self-efficacy enables people to take some extraordinary actions in encountering obstacles by using skills. Effective action depends on having skills and believing the ability to acquire them. Managing ever-changing, obscure, unpredictable and stressful situations is required to develop multidimensional skills (Abdolahi, 2006). Gurdal, Lansford, and Sorbring (2016) found that parent's love directly results in parenting problems decrease, children internalization, and educational development. Janbozaghi (2008) concluded that there is a significant relationship between parenting methods and prosocial behaviors of children. Making children familiar with citizenship notions helps them interfere in decision-making, cooperating in making choices, taking responsibility in the future, democratic education and observing citizenship rights. Habits patterns in patient conduct, affairs cooperation, decision-making, responsibility-taking, respecting law, environment hygiene, and totally learning the rules and requirements of coexistence must be taught during the childhood to see responsible and cooperative citizens in the future rather than having people merely charged with a duty.

### Methods

A correlational research method was applied in this study. The population included all preschool students of Shiraz over the educational year 2017-2018. Cochran's sample size formula was used to select the sample and then 352 children were selected using multistage cluster sampling method.

### Instruments

**Citizenship Skills Questionnaire.** This questionnaire consisting of 40 multiple-choice questions ranging from too much to too little measures children citizenship skills. It was devised by Ramezanzpour (2008) and then formulated and revised by Minri (2012). Its reliability estimated through Cronbach alpha was 0.73. Meanwhile and Minri (2012) exploratory factor analysis conducted and 12 factors were identified for citizenship skills.

**Family Communication Patterns Questionnaire.** Family Communication Patterns Questionnaire is a self-measurement designed by Fitzpatrick and Ritchie (1994) to measure family communication patterns dimensions, namely orientation and conformity. It have 26 statements which measure family communication as well. In fact, it measures conversation and conformity dimension. Ehyakonandeh and Yousefi (2007) confirmed the factor analysis of this questionnaire and reported the Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient for conformity and conversation factors 0.84 and 0.93, respectively.

**Parental Self-efficacy Scale.** This 30-item scale was designed by Bandura (1994, cited by Mohana & Samani, 2007) and is scored by parents ranging from 0-100. The results of exploratory factor analysis showed four factor school problem efficacy, harsh conditions efficacy, protection efficacy and regulation, and supervision efficacy. Cronbach alpha reliability coefficients for the fourth factors were estimated from 0.81 to 0.93 and the total coefficient was equal to 0.90.

### Findings

The results of correlation coefficients indicated there are positive and significant correlation between citizenship skills and parents' self-efficacy, as well as between its components and conversation pattern ( $P < 0.001$ ).

Table 1  
The results of multiple regression analysis s prediction variables family communication pattern and parents self-efficacy in Prediction children citizenship skills as an criteria variable (Entry method)

prediction variables	F P	R <sub>a</sub> R <sup>2</sup>	Beta	t	P	Tolerance coefficient	variance inflation factor
Constant			-	10.24	< 0.001	-	-
Conversation pattern			0.15	2.07	< 0.040	0.87	1.14
Conformity pattern			-0.04	0.77	0.441	0.95	1.05
school problem efficacy	10.55	0.39	0.08	1.19	0.236	0.54	1.85
harsh conditions efficacy	0.001	0.15	0.12	1.77	< 0.078	0.55	1.82
protection efficacy			0.09	1.30	< 0.196	0.49	2.02
regulation and supervision efficacy			0.16	2.10	< 0.036	0.45	2.24

As seen in table 2, prediction variables could predict 15% of changes related to citizenship skills ( $F = 10.55$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ). That is, conversation pattern ( $\beta = 0.15$ ,  $P < 0.040$ ) and regulation and supervision efficacy ( $\beta = 0.16$ ,  $P < 0.036$ ) can predict citizenship skills positively and significantly.

### Discussion

Family is a unique social system in which membership would be established based on biological, lawful, emotional, geographical, and historical factors and key skills of life such as citizenship skills would be developed in it. The parent-child relationship can be a kind of encouragement or punishment, i.e. parents can assist their child to increase his self-confidence and efficiency by trusting and developing sense of acceptance toward him or they can develop his social inefficiency by punishing and criticizing him (Bayazit, 2013). In families with high conversation dimension, there is open and self-motivated communication and different subjects would be discussed broadly (Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 2002). Parents highlight the need to express opinion obviously and even challenge other's views, as long as they consider all aspects of a subject before making any decision. Thus, children in such families develop social skills, problem-solving ability, guidance ability and high self-expression power so that they mostly obey their parents and show more appropriate social behaviors. In contrast, families with high conformity are dictators and controller. They emphasize that their children must avoid confronting in the group, accept all ideas in discussions, respect older people and generally keep away from interpersonal issues (Costin, Lichte, Hill-Smith, Vance, & Luk 2004). Interactions in families with high conformity rely on avoiding conflict and interdependency to the family. The communication between two generations in such families reflects children's obedience to their parents and adults, i.e. children are expected to act according to their parents desire (Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 2002). It works for a short period of time and children gradually learn to obey less than before. Although these kinds of families underline the citizenship behaviors, their children do not obey them largely and the children special age may be one of the probable reasons of this fact. Parenting self-efficacy is a potential and cognitive structure associated with children and family function and broadly refers to caregivers' expectations of their abilities to act as a parent successfully. Moreover, Welander-Vatn, Ystrom, Tambs, Neale, Kendler, & Reichborn-Kjennerud (2016) believe that any disruption in initial parent-child relationship such as parents' special personality traits, their mental disorders, parents' self-efficacy in child upbringing, and developing inappropriate relationship with the child and adolescent can be regarded as a basis for later social abnormalities in future life of children. Any gap in parent-child interaction can definitely negatively affect child's personality development and lead to develop some disorders more or less in the future. Regulation and supervision efficacy is able to predict citizenship skills of children. Hosseini (2011) indicated that families with appropriate and open structure experience less stress, violence, and malfunction so that they improve rapidly as well. According to Park and Park (2001), lack of parents'

attention to make mental and emotional environment as well as improper relations of children and adolescents sound will result in emotional detachments and different mental problems in most cases. Likewise, children may not benefit from citizenship skills too much in the futures.

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