



# An Exploration Of The Parenting Styles And Children's Behaviour In Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Purple Hibiscus

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## Abstract:

This study paper delves into *Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's* novel "*Purple Hibiscus*." Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is a well-known and influential writer among young people. Inher novel *Purple Hibiscus* explores the benefits and drawbacks of involved and uninvolved parenting. Adichie portrays a proper parenting style is important for children's development and mental health. I'd like to broaden my research by referring to Baumrind Pillar's theory specifically. Baumrind identifies four stages of parenting styles in children's growth. He also indicated that the children's behaviours could be attributed from the parenting style that they experienced at home. This research paper examines all the challenges that children encounter as a result of toxic parenting. What are the rewards and consequences that their parents give for them? In the novel *Purple Hibiscus*, I shall contrast two parenting styles through the characters Eugene (papa) and Auntie Ifeoma in the novel *Purple Hibiscus*.

**Keywords: Comparison, the effects of discouragement and encouragement, obligation, self-acceptance, anxiety, agony, and motherhood.**

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is a Nigerian female novelist, essayist, and short story writer. She is one of the most well-known and influential African writers of her generation. The majority of her works deal with subjects such as identity, culture, gender, power, and politics. She is courageously speaking out against women's oppression. Her notable works include *Purple Hibiscus* (2003), *Half of a Yellow Sun* (2006), *Americanah* (2013), *Dear Ijeawele* (2017), and *Notes on Grief* (2020). Her most popular TED-Talks include *The Danger of a Single Story* (2009) and *We Should All Be Feminists* (2012). She has received various awards, including a MacArthur Fellowship in 2008, a National Humanities Medal in 2010 etc. In this paper delves one of her *Purple Hibiscus* with Pillar's theory which developed by Baumrind.

Diana Blumberg Baumrind was a clinical and developmental psychologist, best known for her work on parenting styles and her criticism of the use of deception in psychological research. He developed three parenting styles including authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive/indulgent. Later, Maccoby and Martin introduced the uninvolved/neglectful method. This theory investigates, how parenting approaches influence children's development.

In the novel *Purple Hibiscus*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie states the two types of parenting include authoritative and authoritarian. Authoritative parent style is used in the character Aunty Ifemelu and authoritarian parent styles have the character Eugene Achike (Papa). By these styles of parenting, how the children affect by the behaviour of Eugene and how the children have an opportunity by the parenting styles from the character Aunty Ifeoma. Aunty Ifeoma, as evidenced by Baumrind's authoritative parenting style, is an important figure in the novel *Purple Hibiscus*. She is a very bold, strong-willed woman, who works as a lecturer at Nigeria's University. She is Eugene Achike's sister, as well as the mother of Amaka, Obiora, and Chima. Her parenting method has given her children excellent interpersonal skills, questioning capacities, tenacity, the ability to think by their own, the opportunity to learn from their mistakes, believe, self-confidence, self-esteem, finding their passion and sense of self. “*Authoritative parents are adept at striking a balance between responsiveness and demandingness*” (Watabe, Akiko, 2014) This type of parenting balance their demanding and responsibilities.

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

According to this Assertion from Baumrind's Pillar Theory, Eugene Achike (Papa) performs a toxic function in the novel. His authoritarian parenting style has an emotional and physical impact on his children, 15-year-old Kambili Achike and her 17-year-old brother, Jaja. His unrealistic expectations of perfection have a negative impact on the children. As a result, the youngsters have low self-confidence, self-thinking, peer doubtful abilities, a sense of self, and self-esteem. They are constantly in fear and isolated from their peer relationships. According to Baumrind's idea, some instances of the impact of authoritarian parenting style include Harry Potter's stern aunt and uncle and Cinderella's nasty stepmother. As parents, we should provide

warm support to our children, and all children depend upon the care of their parents. A Parent is the most wonderful and helpful person in the world. If the parent fails to play an appropriate role, the child's life will undoubtedly suffer. Mistrust is something that people create for themselves. All teenagers have a difficult life, due to a lack of parental support and a lack of self-esteem. Parents should provide unconditional support to their children. Eugene Achike focuses heavily on Kambili Achike and Jaja in his work *Purple Hibiscus*. He insists his Catholic values in his family. He assigned a specific time for each task in his family. The children are unable to experience any sense of relaxation. *"We always soaked tiny sections of fabric in the foamy water first to check if the colors would run, although we knew they would not. We wanted to spend every minute of the half hour Papa allocated to uniform washing"* (Adichie 13). Through this statement, we can learn about the two children's awful situation. Their father set aside half an hour for their dress washing. If they are failing to comply, will the result in severe consequences. They have experienced a lot of violence and a painful event in their lives. Children are unable to acquire competent skills if their parents provide little support and place a great value on obedience. This is a significant issue in our culture. Parents believe that severe or dominating rules will instill obedience in their children, however, this approach may not always work for everyone. Today's generation expects their parents to play a close role, similar to that of a friend.

*"I was in my room after lunch, reading James chapter five because I would talk about the biblical roots of the anointing of the sick during family time, when I heard the sounds. Swift, heavy thuds on my parents' hand-carved bedroom door. I imagined the door had gotten stuck and Papa was trying to open it. If I imagined it hard enough, then it would be true. I sat down, closed my eyes, and started to count. Counting made it seem not that long, made it seem not that bad. Sometimes it was over before I even got to twenty. I was at nineteen when the sounds stopped. I heard the door open. Papa's gait on the stairs sounded heavier, more awkward, than usual"* (Adichie 19).

## The Role of Violence in Family Dynamics

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's writing discusses how violence plays a corrosive role in the formation of a teenager's life. The two youngsters experience such violence between their parents. This incident attempts to make them feel alone, and it may cause them to ponder violence in a profound manner, sometimes prompting them to play their own lives. This is not just about the two youngsters, Kambili and Jaja, but also represents all teenagers around the world. Teenagers' ages range from 12 to 18, which is an important stage in their development. At this point, people have begun to evaluate and research themselves in quest of an identity and passion. At this stage, if parents did not play a significant part, they are becoming confused in their personal career. *"Was Mama sure the baby was gone? I was still staring at her belly when Sisi came in"* (Adichie 20). Here, the children are eagerly expecting their upcoming sister or brother. They had a fascinating discussion regarding their future baby brother. However, as a result of the papa's conduct violations, their mother Beatrice endures reiterated abortions. So, they think about it and devise a way to save this child from his father's nasty behaviour.

## The Search for Identity and Security

Commonly children are affected by several issues from their family. These conflicts impact the mind and the body. If a youngster overcomes several difficulties during their adolescence, it may cause post-traumatic stress disorder because their mind and thoughts are filled with the quarrel environment. It affects their growth and potential severally. This is an authoritarian parenting style, and these are the consequences for children, who are subjected to it. Baumrind also addresses authoritarian parenting approaches. It is to give an ideal environment with boundaries and appropriate demands for their children.

*“Authoritative parenting is high on warmth, moderate on discipline, high in communication and moderate in expectations of maturity. This style is becoming more pervasive in the West. Authoritative parents are warm and nurturing, create a loving home environment and provide a high degree of emotional support (Ingersoll, 1989).”*

According to Baumrind's Pillar Theory, *Aunty Ifeoma* plays an essential role in the story, she contributes significantly to their children's development. Adichie's portrayal of this character exhibits exceptional parenting skills. She also looks into the features of women in various activities. Aunty Ifeoma's parenting style is nurturing and loving for her children. As a result, her children are capable of learning well, studying well, communicating effectively, performing self-analysis, possessing self-confidence and a sense of self, discovering their passion and learning from their mistakes. These are the factors that lead to children's independence. Aunty Ifeoma understands how to manage a child's life and development. She is constantly taking the initiative and contributing significantly to their children's development. She isn't like Papa's destructive parenting.

*“The words in my textbooks kept turning into blood each time I read them. Even as my first term exams approached, even when we started to do class reviews, the words still made no sense”* (Adichie 22).

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's writing tackles the hardships of children who have overbearing parents. Every youngster requires soothing affection from their parents or caregivers. If we are not prepared to provide appropriate advice to them, their lives may become tragic during their developmental process. Education plays a significant role in the formation of parenting approaches. Every stage of development requires a good, supportive parent. Today's teenagers anticipate warm parental support.

## Consequences of Violence on Family Relationships

Parenting is one of the most important tasks; it is not easy to manage, but as a parent we bear a significant obligation to raise our children positively. We must make them wonderful citizens. A country's development is largely dependent on its youth. Teenagers' development is influenced by their surroundings, and parents play a crucial role in maintaining an adequate environment. When children do not receive appropriate support from their families, harsh parenting can have major implications such as low self-esteem, verbal

confusion, violent behaviourism, uncontrollable illegal addiction and other issues. They are expected to engage in the most harmful activities as a result of their poor peer relationships. Violent parenting blocks children from discussing their daily activities with their parents. As a result, they are more sensitive to share their views and opinions with others than with their family members, and they may engage in positive as well as negative social interactions.

In today's world, the two types of parenting have quite different effects on the lives of teenagers. Parents, that utilize an authoritative parenting style, can raise their children in a positive and responsible manner. People who choose an authoritarian parenting style may assume, that their children are growing up to be disciplined and obedient. However, this isn't exactly how kids behave. Actually, strictness and perfection are important components of parenting; However, they must be tempered with love, understanding, mercy, affection, and responsibilities. Instead, treat our child like we were treated. Authoritarian parenting has a long-term impact on children. Instead of raising our children in the same way that we were raised, we may raise them in the way that we desired to be raised as children.

*Parenting goals are the outcomes that parents have in mind and hope to achieve during specific interactions with their children (Dix, 1992).*

### **The Role of Parents as Role Models**

We should provide the finest possible environment for our children. The children consider their parents to be the primary role models. They are listening to numerous things from their parents, including verbal words, mannerisms, ways of speaking, gestures, power, confidence, and so on, and we should supply these in a proper manner. We should assess their needs and share in their joy and pain. *I came second in my class. It was written in figures: "2/25." My form mistress, Sister Clara, had written, "Kambili is intelligent beyond her years, quiet and responsible." The principal, Mother Lucy, wrote, "A brilliant, obedient student and a daughter to be proud of." But I knew Papa would not be proud"* (Adichie 22). The most important one is encouragement, appreciation in their development.

Children seek recognition for even the smallest accomplishments in their lives; If we abandon them, they may relapse and lose faith in all aspects of life. If the teens are involved in any negative situations, their parents will receive criticism, and if they are active in positive activities, their parents will receive recognition. Because parents are the basis of their children's development. If the pillar is fragile, the entire structure will collapse; Similarly, if the parents fail to fulfil their responsibilities, the children's development will be harmed, as demonstrated by the characters Kambili Achieke and Jaja. In this Tale, Auntie Ifeoma serves as a sturdy pillar for their children. he takes full responsibility for her children's personal and social development. Thus, the research article concludes that helpful parents can shape their children more effectively than authoritarian parenting. If we are confident in ourselves, they will naturally form themselves as a responsive youngster, and they will begin to evoke themselves and recognise their faults, paving the way for new opportunities. Positive parenting influences the children's minds and behaviour. These are all major responsibilities in the parenting life. Every child is a gift from God; it is our responsibility to safeguard

them. Finally, I conclude my thesis, most of children's behaviour is dependent on their parenting style. Every child can become a successful person in future, if they receive proper guidance from their parents.

“Parental responsiveness (also referred to as parental warmth or supportiveness) refers to the extent to which parents intentionally foster individuality, self-regulation, and self-assertion by being attuned, supportive and acquiescent to children's special needs and demands” (Baumrind, 1991

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