



Authoritative and Permissive Approach of Parenting in the Novels of Preeti Shenoy

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Abstract

Parenting is a complex voyage that entails the delicate task of nurturing and guiding a child's growth. This multifaceted journey involves a wide range of duties aimed at fostering children's overall development, including their physical, emotional, social, and intellectual aspects. The ultimate goal is to establish a supportive environment where children can develop into well-rounded individuals prepared for life's challenges. Effective parenting extends beyond the home, encompassing education and the imparting of essential life skills, setting boundaries, and modeling exemplary behavior. We can categorize parenting into two types Permissive and Authoritative. The first category treat their child equally as they do not want to be an authoritative parent. The authoritative parenting style is the traditional style of parenting. This type of parents set a role model for their children. This paper focuses on the pros and cons of permissive and authoritative parenting.

Keywords: multifaceted, nurturing, subtle, responsibilities, permissive and authoritative

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Authoritative type of Parenting

Parental figures wield significant sway over their children's lives and decisions. Authoritative parents establish and uphold guidelines to foster their children's growth and well-being. This fosters the development of responsibility in them for the future. Such parenting style provides nurturing and guidance while maintaining a level of control over their children's actions. While they do consider their children's perspectives, they may not always be flexible in crucial matters that could significantly impact their children's careers and lives. "We are teaching them to fly, so do not be their crutch. Be their wings. It is only when you experience deep sorrow

that you truly appreciate the power of kindness."
(Rule Breakers)

Rule Breakers

Rule Breakers by Preeti Shenoy explores the themes of love, companionship, and societal norms through the journey of Veda, a determined and independent woman who challenges conventional expectations. Despite her family's conservative values that prioritize marriage over personal goals, Veda remains steadfast in pursuing her creative dreams. The novel delves into Veda's journey of self-discovery and her efforts to reconcile her identity with societal expectations. She faces challenges



regarding autonomy and fulfillment, ultimately learning valuable lessons about love, acceptance, and the importance of forging one's own path.

Veda's parents, particularly her mother, are depicted as adhering strictly to traditional values and societal norms. They hold specific expectations regarding Veda's education and marriage prospects, often conflicting with Veda's own aspirations. Throughout the narrative, Veda struggles to assert her autonomy and navigate her own way amidst the pressures imposed by her parents' expectations.

"Why can't I get a job and work, Papa? Why should only Animesh have that privilege?" Veda wanted to ask. But she had been taught by her mother to never talk back to her elders, especially to her father. It was disrespectful, she was told. So she and her sisters would silently listen to her father's rants." (Rule Breakers, 9)

A Hundred Little Flames

The book explores the different ways of parenting among various generations, specifically focusing on the differences between Ayan's grandparents and his own parents. Ayan's grandparents embody a traditional and authoritative parenting style, in contrast to Ayan's parents who embrace a modern and liberal approach. The sacrifices that the parents make for their children are shown, especially through Ayan's mother, who forgoes her own dreams and goals to provide her family and ensure Ayan's accomplishments. The intricacies of parent-child relationships are examined, emphasizing the conflicts, misinterpretations, and ultimately, the bond that parents and their children share. Ayan is wrestling with the burden of meeting his parents' high expectations and finding it challenging to meet them, highlighting the common pressure children face in trying to fulfill their parents' expectations. The novel emphasizes the significance of effective communication and understanding between parents and children as Ayan navigates his relationships with his parents and grandparents. Ayan is supported and guided by both his parents and grandparents as he faces the obstacles of growing up, demonstrating how parents influence their children's paths in life. Ayan struggles to balance his personal aspirations with his family's expectations, highlighting the significant

influence parents have on their children's values, beliefs, and choices. In general, *A Hundred Little Flames* presents a detailed depiction of parenting, delving into the intricacies and interactions of family relationships and emphasizing the lasting affection and selfless acts that come with the bond between parent and child.

Preeti Shenoy (PS): Most parents have no idea just how much to push their teens. When it comes to teens and their parents, even the most 'chill parents' (to use a teenage term) throw up their hands in despair. Teens and young adults are also confused about what they want in life. I wanted to write a fun, fast-paced book that encompasses all these issues, and *When Love Came Calling* was the result.

HS: The book also mirrors modern society to some extent – parental pressures, young people figuring out what they want to do in life, etc. What is your personal take on this? PS: I hope the book helps parents see things from teenagers' perspective and helps teens to see things from a parental point of view. (Her Story)

Life is What You Make it

Life is What You Make it is a fictional narrative centered on Ankita Sharma, a bright young woman in her twenties. Known for her intelligence, ambition, and affable nature, she earns respect and admiration within her middle-class social circle for her academic accomplishments. Throughout her school and college years, Ankita navigates relationships with three different boyfriends, Vaibhav, Abhishek, and Joseph, yet ultimately chooses a different partner for marriage.

In *Life is What You Make it*, Ankita Sharma's parents embody authoritative parenting, skillfully depicted throughout the story. They establish distinct rules and standards for Ankita, offering support with a mix of care and firmness. While they promote her autonomy and respect her opinions, they also assert authority to ensure her actions are responsible. This parenting style significantly influences Ankita's development, fostering her self-assurance and competence, which in turn, equips her to tackle life's decisions with conviction. Ankita struggles with her traditional parents who disapprove her interactions with male friends which are reflected through the



conversation with her parents in the flashback scene.

“Is this what we sent you to college for?”

“Who is this fellow? And what is this writing in blood? Bloody mad bastard. How dare he?” The father was incredibly furious, his speech choked with emotion, and his body trembled with rage. “And have you written back to him, her shameless hussy?” her mom berated her. “How many guys will you trap with your charms, you stupid little tramp?” Her mother almost spat out”. (Shenoy, 115 and 116)

You have painted a dreary picture of arranged marriage. How many Vedas make compromises and adjustments in urban India?

I think Veda's story is the reality for many women even today. I found that out while researching for the book. Please bear in mind that even if it was a love marriage, the mother-in-law might have turned out to be that way. So your life after marriage does not depend on whether it is an arranged marriage or a love marriage. Also towards the end of the book, the mother-in-law changes as a person; so does Veda. There isn't a single character in the book who is not transformed. Everyone changes, grows. That's how it is in life too. (The Telegraph Online)

Permissive Type of Parenting

Permissive parents cater to their children's needs without giving out much discipline. Raghav's parents are depicted as more progressive and encouraging of his pursuits. They foster an environment where Raghav is empowered to pursue his passion for photography and express himself authentically. The differing parental approaches between Veda and Raghav underscore the contrasting impacts of parental guidance on their lives.

Ankita's father suggested to Ankita, “Look Ankita, you are fine physically. Just force yourself to go to college. You will feel better once you meet your friend and do your coursework.” (Shenoy, 128) It is a very important change in our society, today's parents give chance to their children to improve their mistakes. With proper counselling, they encourage their children to continue their education or make them understand the importance of a career. But in the past parents used to get so annoyed and preferred to marry their children as soon as possible so that they would not face the unwanted situation in the

future. In this novel, Ankita's parents give chance to go to college and make friends. If today's generation promises their parents that they would never commit such mistakes again and would focus on their career, their parents will surely forgive them and give another chance to make their future bright.

Conclusion

Preeti Shenoy's novels explore the dynamics of family relationships and the lasting influence of parental upbringing. Readers can discern how the behaviors and upbringing of parents shape the lives and decisions of their offspring throughout different generations. Characters often display distinct traits or actions that can be linked back to their upbringing or the influence of their parents. The parental roles portrayed in Shenoy's novel significantly influence the characters' development, aspirations, and conflicts. The expectations and guidance provided by parents serve as pivotal factors driving the characters' decisions and shaping the narrative's progression. Through the exploration of parental dynamics, Preeti Shenoy delves into themes such as tradition, independence, and the struggle against societal norms. The traditional way of parenting and the modern method of parenting are necessary to shape their children's core identity. Sometimes they need to be strict and sometime they need to be friendly with their children. Both the approaches will help in the development of a child. Preeti Shenoy has portrayed divergent type of parenting. The readers will be able to associate themselves with the characters and might adopt certain strategies related to the situation.

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