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The prediction of children's sexual attitudes and knowledge from parental attitudes

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Rejecting scales are related (Brody, 1969). The findings suggest that the MPAS Rejecting scale is useful as an indicator of emotional distance between parent and child (Brody, 1969).

The instruments used to assess children's sexual attitudes and knowledge were :

The Children's Conservatism Scale (described above);

Schofield's Sexual Attitude Inventory;

Sex Knowledge Scale.

Schofield's Sexual Attitude Inventory

Schofield's aim in producing this scale was to compile a list of statements covering the important areas in a teenager's life. These areas include attitudes to the family and its restraints, other teenagers, marriage, the moral code, sex and sex education (Schofield, 1965). The sources for these items were current newspaper articles and comments about teenagers, statements from the representatives of official bodies, the questionnaire of the BMA Committee on the problem of venereal disease, Eysenck's Social Attitude Inventory (Eysenck, 1954), a personality test (Terman & Miles, 1936). Items were rejected if they were too topical, because the idea or vocabulary would have been clear only to middle-class teenagers and because the statements could cause embarrassment or resentment. The average time taken to complete the inventory was found to be less than ten minutes.

The rationale given for the selection of items is particularly relevant to the South African situation, since a researcher needs to be particularly careful not to cause resentment or embarrassment and to be sure that the statements would not be clear only to middle-class teenagers. "A study with younger adolescents might minimise parents' objections by embedding the sex survey in a larger study of interpersonal

behaviour and attitudes". (Hopkins, 1977). Again, this seemed particularly important for a survey being conducted in South Africa. For example:

- there is no harm in travelling without a ticket occasionally if you can get away with it;
- summer holidays without parents are more enjoyable.

The standardised item alpha for the scale is .82, thus confirming the reliability of the scale. This reliability figure was obtained at the present analysis.

A factor analysis was carried out on the responses received in this research. A 'factor score' was calculated on each factor for each individual. The method used by Schofield (1965) was that developed by Hendrickson and White (1964). Two third-order factors were produced for the boys and three for the girls. The responses obtained from the present sample were subjected to a factor analysis using the Varimax Rotated Factor method. This was done as it was thought that the factors produced in England might not be relevant to a South African example. Five factors emerged with eigenvalues greater than 1, and the first two of these factors were used in the analysis. These two factors have a variance greater than 10%, and were identified by use of the Scree Test (Child, 1970). This test ensures that the factors used exclude as much of the non-common variance as possible. Together, these two factors accounted for 42% of the total variance. The first had an eigenvalue of 5.76 and explained 27.6% of the variance, and the second with an eigenvalue of 3.02 explained 14.4% of the variance. The two factors and the statements contained in each are to be found in Appendix C, together with the loading of each statement on the factor. The item loading of .250 was used as the cut-off point for significance. Child (1970) suggests loadings of at least .11 for the five percent level, when N = 300. Therefore, .250 is a fairly rigorous criterion in this case. As regards the labelling of the two factors, these were

the labels used by Schofield (1965) to describe the factors which contained items very similar to those emerging from the present factor analysis.

The scoring of this scale was as follows:

AGREE - 1; DON'T KNOW - 2; DISAGREE - 3

Therefore, the lower the score on this scale the greater the Sexual Restrictiveness or Sexual Ethnocentricism.

Sex Knowledge Scale

The scale used in this research was based on the Information Test on Human Reproduction and the Family Life Sex Education Inventory (Hurter, 1971). Fifteen items were selected. This number was decided upon so as not to make the scale too lengthy for the younger respondents, whilst still covering important aspects such as reproduction, contraception, menstruation, homosexuality, nocturnal emissions, masturbation and teen-age growth. Research has shown that adolescents often do not accurately estimate their knowledge of sexual matters. Males and females either under- or over-estimate their knowledge and both sexes are poorly informed on all major sex topics, even at college level (Juhasz, 1967; Miller & Simon, 1974).

The reliability of the scale was established by the present researcher as being .55 on the unequal length Spearman-Brown. Although low, this figure is acceptable. The scale is in the form of multiple-choice questions, with four alternate answers to each question, one of which is the correct answer. For example :

Sexual intercourse occurs when :

a. a couple are in love and share all their thoughts and feelings;

b. a couple lie together with their bodies touching;

c. the erect penis enters the vagina;

d. a couple touch each other's sexual organs.

The maximum number of correct answers is fifteen and the maximum score is fifteen. In other words, one point is scored for each correct answer.

Readability of Material

The consent forms, the Sex Attitude Inventory and the Sex Knowledge Scale were all subjected to a formula for determining the level of readability (Grunder, 1978). Grunder states that 'consent is worthless unless it is an informed consent and informed consent is not possible without subject understanding' (Grunder, 1978, p.773). The Flesch readability formula was applied to the consent forms and a score of 75,5 was obtained, which Flesch describes as 'fairly easy' and below the standard found in most digests. The Sex Knowledge questionnaire was found to have readability of 90, which Flesch characterises as 'very easy'. The Sex Attitude Inventory has a readability of 83,3, which is considered 'very easy'. Thus it was ascertained that even the youngest subjects should have a clear understanding of the nature and content of the forms to be completed. In addition, the terminology of the questionnaire was assessed with a Coloured nurse and a school teacher. Both of these people confirmed that the children of the Coloured community should be familiar with the terms used in the questionnaire.

All questionnaires and consent forms, for both adults and for children, were available in English and Afrikaans.

In addition to the consent form and the questionnaires described, there were two further sheets which the subjects were required to complete. From both the adults and the children some biographical information was sought, such as age and religion. The children were asked to indicate their sources of sex information (see Appendix B), and an analysis of the sources of this information will be included in the Results section.

The dependent variables in this study are children's Sex Knowledge,

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The dependent variables in this study are children's Sex Knowledge,

Conservatism factors (five factors), as well as the Global Conservatism score, Teenage Sexual Restrictiveness and Teenage Sexual Ethnocentricism. The independent variables are the parental child-rearing styles - indulgent, protective, disciplinarian and rejecting, as well as the four factors of parents' Conservatism. Each variable is applicable separately to the White and Coloured groups of parents and their children, thus making four groups of parents and four groups of children to be studied.

Statistical Analysis

The major statistical analysis of this study was carried out by the use of the multiple regression technique (Darlington, 1968; Kerlinger & Pedhazur, 1973). The use of this technique makes it possible to investigate the contribution made by more than two independent variables X_i to a dependent variable, Y. Description of the relationship takes the form of a linear equation between the dependent and independent variables:

$$Y^1 = A + B_i X_1 + B_2 X_2 + \ldots\ldots B_k X_k$$

where Y^1 is the estimated value of the dependent variable, Y;

A is the Y intercept of the regression line;

B_1 is the regression coefficient; and

X_1 denotes the value of the independent variables.

The A and B coefficients are selected according to the least squares principle, which implies that the sum of the squared residuals $(Y - Y^1)^2$ is minimised. The R^2 statistic is also used to indicate the highest possible correlation between a least squares linear composite of the independent variables and the observed dependent variable (Kerlinger, 1973). In other words, R^2 is an index of the amount of variance in the dependent variable explained by the independent variable.

The forward stepwise inclusion method was used, in which the first predictor selected for the analysis is the one that has the highest correlation with the dependent variable. The next predictor selected for the analysis is the one that, in combination with the first, best predicts the dependent variable, and so on (Nie, Hull, Jenkins, Steinbrenner & Bent, 1975).

One regression analysis was conducted for each of the dependent variables; that is, the Sex Knowledge score, each of the five factors of children's Conservatism, being Religious Conservatism, Ethnocentricism, Social Acceptance/Conformity, Sexual Conservatism and Punitiveness; the Global Conservatism score and finally the Sex Attitude factors - 'Teenage Sexual Restrictiveness' and 'Teenage Sexual Ethnocentricism'. The independent variables were parental child-rearing styles (four) and the four factors of parents' conservatism as well as the Race and Sex, Male and Female, of the four groups of children.

In order to assess the relationship of age with Sex Knowledge, children's total conservatism score, Teenage Sexual Restrictiveness and Teenage Sexual Ethnocentricism, Pearson correlations were computed for each of the four groups of children. In addition, analyses of variance were computed for all children's variables. The analysis of variance procedure is explainable in the following way:

When testing whether or not the means of various groups are equal we can examine two different variances.

One based on differences between the groups (SB^2)

One based on differences within the groups (SW^2)

If differences do exist between groups SB^2 will be significantly greater than SW^2. Since there are two variances involved the test statistic is based on the ratio of the two variances $\frac{SB^2}{SW^2}$ and the ratio of the two variances follows the F-distribution.

RESULTS

The Dependent Variables are specified on each Table (see Tables 2 - 10). The Independent Variables are the same in all the multiple regression analyses. They are as follows: The four child-rearing styles of fathers and mothers (Coloured and White separately): Disciplinarian, Indulgent, Protective and Rejecting styles, as displayed toward sons and daughters; the four conservatism factors of fathers and mothers (Coloured and White separately). These four being, 'Control', 'Ethnocentricism', 'Anti-hedonism' and 'Social Acceptance/Conformity'; Race and Sex 1 and Sex 2 (male and female) of each of the four groups of children.

Table 2 shows the result of the multiple regression analysis for the dependent variable 'Children's Sex Knowledge' and the independent variables as specified above.

The most important predictor of children's sex knowledge in this study is Coloured mothers' disciplinarian style, which shows a negative relationship to their children's sex knowledge. This independent variable accounts for 29% of the variance in the dependent variable. Both the entering value (F = 119,78) and the F value in the final equation (F = 37,29) (p <,01) are significant.

The variable fathers' protectiveness toward sons accounts for a further 2% of the variance in sex knowledge. Both the entering F value (10,84) and the final F value (14,13) are significant at the 1% level.

Coloured Mothers' indulgence relates negatively to their daughters' sex knowledge. The F value in the final equation is significant (F = 5,86; p <,05). Coloured mothers' protectiveness has a positive relationship with the daughters' sex knowledge (F = 5,65 to enter equation and F = 5,65, p < ,05 in the final equation).

Coloured mothers' indulgence and protectiveness each contribute only 1% to the variance in sex knowledge.

The six significant variables below in combination account for 35% of the variance in children's sex knowledge, and the correlation coefficient, R^2 is ,35.

TABLE 2

MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS FOR THE DEPENDENT VARIABLE CHILDREN'S SEX KNOWLEDGE

Independent variable entering equation	Step	B value in final equation	R^2	Increase in R^2	F	
					Entering	Final
Intercept		12,29				
Coloured Mothers' Discipline	1	- ,18	,29		11,78**	- 37,29**
Fathers' Protectiveness towards Sons	2	- ,05	,31	,02	10,84**	14,13**
Coloured Mothers' Social Acceptance	3	- ,62	,33	,02	8,54**	10,03**
Mothers' Protectiveness towards Daughters	3		,33	,00	13,68**	-
	(replaced by Coloured Mothers' Protectiveness in final equation)					
Coloured Mothers' Indulguence	4	,08	,34	,01	1,76	5,86*
Coloured Mothers' Protectiveness	5	,09	,35	,01	5,65*	5,65*

* $p < ,05$
** $p < ,01$

Table 3 shows the results of the multiple regression analysis for the dependent variable 'Children's Religious Conservatism' with the independent variables as enumerated below.

The most significant predictor of children's religious conservatism is Race. Coloured children score significantly more highly than Whites on this factor. The B value in the final equation is ,82 and the Intercept value is -,04. F value to enter the equation is 93,48 and in the final equation F = 86,11, showing significance at the ,01 level.

Mothers' rejection towards girls contributes 3% to the variance of children's religious conservatism. The F value (13,65) $p < ,01$, is significant to enter, but does not appear in the final equation.

Fathers' anti-hedonism accounts for a 3% increase in the variance of children's religious conservatism. F value to enter the equation is 10,46 and in the final equation F = 11,16 $p < ,01$.

Mothers' rejecting child-rearing style has a significant negative relation to children's religious factor. F value is significant at the ,01 level to enter the equation (F = 9,86) and in the final equation (F = 12,77).

Mothers' disciplinarian style shows a positive relationship to this factor. F = 12,17 when entering the equation and F = 12,47 $p < ,01$ in the final equation.

The predictor variables below in combination account for 33% of the variance of children's religious conservatism and the R^2 is ,33.

TABLE 3

MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS FOR THE DEPENDENT VARIABLE CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS CONSERVATISM

Independent variable entering equation	Step	B value in final equation	R^2	Increase in R^2	F	
					To enter	Final
Intercept		- ,04				
Race	1	,82	,24		93,48**	86,11**
Mothers' Rejection towards Daughters	2	- ,01	,27	,03	13,65**	-
White Fathers' Anti-hedonism	3	,16	,30	,03	10,46**	11,16**
Mothers' Rejection	4	- ,02	,32	,02	9,86**	12,17**
Mothers' Discipline towards Daughters	4	,01	,32	,00	12,17**	12,47**
White Mothers' Anti-hedonism	5	- ,09	,33	,01	3,76	3,76

** $p < ,01$

Table 4 shows the results of the multiple regression analysis for the dependent variable 'Children's Ethnocentricism'. Coloured mothers' disciplinarian style enters the equation first, significant at the ,01 level ($F = 20,30$). However, Coloured fathers' disciplinarianism replaces this in the final equation. Coloured fathers' disciplinarian style has significance at the ,01 level ($F = 15,34$) to enter the equation, and $F = 11,21$ in the final equation. Coloured fathers' rejecting style is significant at the ,01 level to enter ($F = 9,99$) and in the final equation ($F = 6,81$), and contributes 3% to the variance of children's ethnocentricism, but has a negative relationship to this variable.

Fathers' rejecting style shows a negative relationship to their sons' ethnocentricism, and the F value for the variable is significant at the ,05 confidence level for both the entrance into the equation (F = 4,51) and appearance in the final equation (F = 4,07)

Mothers' indulgence towards girls shows a negative relationship to their religious conservatism and the F values are significant at the ,01 confidence level. To enter the equation (F = 11,09) and in the final equation (F = 14,18).

Fathers' indulgence contributes 1% to the variance of children's ethnocentricism, but does not have significant F ratios.

The variables below in combination account for 15% of the variance of children's ethnocentricism and R^2 is ,15.

TABLE 4

MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS FOR THE DEPENDENT VARIABLE CHILDREN'S ETHNOCENTRICISM

Independent variable entering equation	Step	B value in final equation	R^2	Increase in R^2	F	
					To enter	Final
Intercept		,49				
Coloured Mothers' Discipline	1	,02	,07		20,30**	-
	(Replaced in final equation by Coloured Fathers' Discipline)					
Mothers' Indulgence towards Daughters	2	-,02	,10	,03	11,09**	14,18**
Coloured Fathers' Discipline	2	,03	,10	,00	15,34**	11,21**
Coloured Fathers' Rejection	3	-,03	,13	,03	9,99**	6,81*
Fathers' Rejection towards Sons	4	-,01	,14	,01	4,51*	4,07*
Fathers' Indulgence	5	-,01	,15	,01	3,52	3,52

* p < ,05
** p < ,01

Table 5 shows the results of the multiple regression analysis for the dependent variable 'Children's Social Acceptance/Conformity' and the independent variables. Mothers' disciplinarianism enters the equation first and accounts for 5% of the variance in the dependent variable. The F value for this variable is significant at the ,01 confidence level for both entrance into the equation (F = 13,95) and appearance in the final equation (F = 9,21).

Mothers' rejecting style contributes 2% to the variance of children's social acceptance and shows a significant negative relationship to this variable. F = 8,90 to enter the equation and F = 8,08 in the final equation. ($p < ,01$).

White fathers' social conformity contributes 1% to the variance and has a significant negative correlation with their children's social acceptance. F = 5,66 to enter the equation and F = 5,93 in the final equation ($p < ,05$).

Fathers' protectiveness towards sons shows a positive relationship with social acceptance, but the F values are not significant.

TABLE 5

MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS FOR DEPENDENT VARIABLE CHILDREN'S SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE/CONFORMITY

Independent variable entering equation	Step	B value in final equation	R^2	Increase in R^2	F	
					To enter	Final
Intercept	5	,01				
Mothers' Discipline	1	,02	,05		13,95**	9,21**
Mothers' Rejection	2	-,02	,07	,02	8,90**	8,08
Mothers' Indulgence towards Sons	3	-,03	,10	,03	7,77**	9,09**
White Fathers' Social Conformity	4	-,14	,11	,01	5,66*	5,93
Fathers' Protectiveness towards Sons	5	.01	,13	,02	3,81	3,81

* $p < ,05$
** $p < ,01$

Table 6 shows the results of the multiple regression analysis for the dependent variable 'Children's Sexual Conservatism' and the independent variables.

Coloured mothers' disciplinarian style is the first predictor to enter the equation. Both the value to enter the equation ($F = 45,48$) and the value in the final equation ($F = 20,60$) are significant ($p < ,01$). This independent variable bears a positive relationship to children's sexual conservatism.

Mothers' rejecting style shows a negative relationship to children's sexual conservatism, and contributes 1% to the variance of sexual conservatism. However, the F ratios to enter and in the final equation are not significant.

Coloured mothers' protectiveness shows a negative relationship to children's sexual conservatism ($\underline{F}$ = 4,37) $p < ,05$ in the final equation.

Coloured mothers' and Coloured fathers' anti-hedonism each contribute 1% to the variance of sexual conservatism, but none of the $\underline{F}$ ratios is significant. The relationship of mothers' anti-hedonism to children's sexual conservatism is positive and fathers' anti-hedonism negative.

TABLE 6

MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS FOR THE DEPENDENT VARIABLE CHILDREN'S SEXUAL CONSERVATISM

Independent variable entering equation	Step	B value in final equation	R^2	Increase in R^2	$\underline{F}$	
					To enter	Final
Intercept	5	,02				-
Coloured Mothers' Discipline	1	,04	,13		45,48**	20,60**
Mothers' Rejection	2	-,01	,14	,01	3,48	3,60
Coloured Mothers' Protectiveness	3	-,02	,15	,01	3,69	4,37*
Coloured Fathers' Anti-hedonism	4	-,08	,16	,01	2,27	2,22
Coloured Mothers' Anti-hedonism	5	,07	,17	,01	1,78	1,78

* $p < ,05$
** $p < ,01$

Table 7 shows the results of the multiple regression analysis for the dependent variable 'Children's Punitiveness' with the previously named independent variables.

The first predictor to enter the equation is Coloured mothers' anti-hedonism. This predictor contributes 2% to the variance of children's

punitiveness and has an F value of 5,40 to enter the equation and F = 5,27 p < ,05 in the final equation.

The other predictors together contribute only a further 3% to the variance of children's punitiveness. These are fathers' protectiveness (negative relationship), fathers' discipline, Coloured fathers' anti-hedonism (positively related) and mothers' protectiveness towards girls (negatively related). None of these variables have significant F values to enter the equation or in the final equation.

TABLE 7

MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS FOR THE DEPENDENT VARIABLE CHILDREN'S PUNITIVENESS

Independent variable entering equation	Step	B value in final equation	R^2	Increase in R^2	F	
					To enter	Final
Intercept	5	,19				
Coloured Mothers' Anti-hedonism	1	,12	,02		5,40*	5,14*
Fathers' Rejection towards Sons	2	,01	,03	,01	3,13	2,39
Mothers' Protectiveness towards daughters	3	-,01	,03	,00	1,84	2,05
Coloured Fathers' Anti-hedonism	4	-,07	,04	,01	1,41	1,37
Fathers' Protectiveness	5	-,01	,04	,00	2,51	2,45
Fathers' Discipline	5	,01	,05	,01	2,45	2,45

* p < ,05

Table 8 shows the results of the multiple regression analysis for the 'Global Conservatism' score and the independent variables.

The first predictor variable to enter the equation is again Coloured mothers' disciplianrian style. This accounts for 23% of the variance in

the total conservatism score. The F value (90,30) to enter the equation and the F value in the final equation (64,83) are significant at the 1% level.

Mothers' rejecting style bears a negative relationship to children's total conservatism score and contributes 4% to the variance. The F value to enter the equation is 16,15 and in the final equation it is 20,56 ($p < ,01$).

Coloured mothers' social acceptance contributes 2% of the variance in the dependent variable and is significant at the 1% level both to enter the equation ($F = 8,62$) and in the final equation ($F = 7,27$).

Mothers' disciplinarian style bears a positive relationship to the dependent variable and contributes a further 2% of the variance. F to enter the equation is 5,36 and in the final equation $F = 11,83$ ($p < ,01$).

Race is a very important predictor of conservatism in this regression analysis. ($F = 38,08$ to enter and $F = 38,08$ in the final equation ($p < ,01$)). Coloured children score significantly more highly than White children on global conservatism. Fathers' indulgence shows a negative relationship to children's total conservatism score. $F = 4,10$ in the final equation ($p < ,05$).

TABLE 8

MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS FOR THE DEPENDENT VARIABLE CHILDREN'S GLOBAL CONSERVATISM SCORE

Independent variable entering equation	Step	B value in final equation	R^2	Increase in R^2	F	
					To enter	Final
Intercept	5	46,97				
Coloured Mothers' Discipline	1	,36	,23		90,30**	64,83**
Mothers' Rejection	2	-,41	,27	,04	16,15**	20,56**
Coloured Mothers' Social Acceptance	3	1,87	,29	,02	8,62**	7,27**
Mothers' Discipline	4	,32	,31	,02	5,36*	11,83**
Coloureds	5	8,11	,32	,01	49,38**	38,08**
Fathers' Indulgence	5	-,17	,32	,00	4,10*	4,10*

* $p < ,05$
** $p < ,01$

Table 9 shows the results of the multiple regression analysis for the dependent variable 'Teenage Sexual Restrictiveness' and the previously named independent variables.

The Coloured girls score significantly more highly than the other three groups of children on this variable. This group accounts for 17% of the variance in teenage restrictiveness. F = 59,57 to enter the equation and F = 43,31 in the final equation ($p < ,01$).

The next predictor variable to enter is Coloured mothers' rejecting style toward sons, and this style bears a negative relationship to their sons teenage restrictiveness and account for a further 5% of the variance of the dependent variable. F = 19,91 to enter the equation and F = 26,73

in the final equation ($p < ,01$).

Mothers' rejecting style towards girls also bears a negative relationship to teenage restrictiveness. $\underline{F} = 5,23$ to enter the equation ($p < ,05$) and $\underline{F} = 8,85$ ($p < ,01$) in the final equation.

Mothers' indulgence towards sons shows a significant positive relationship to teenage restrictiveness and accounts for a further 2% of the variance. $\underline{F} = 7,22$ to enter the equation but does not appear in the final equation.

The boys' score is significantly lower on teenage restrictiveness than the girls' score ($\underline{F} = 14,11$) in the final equation ($p < ,01$).

Coloured mothers' anti-hedonism is positively related to children's teenage restrictiveness. $\underline{F} = 3,96$ in the final equation ($p < ,05$).

The variables in combination account for 26% of the variance of teenage sexual restrictiveness.

TABLE 9

MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS FOR THE DEPENDENT VARIABLE CHILDREN'S TEENAGE SEXUAL RESTRICTIVENESS

Independent variable entering equation	Step	B value in final equation	R^2	Increase in R^2	F	
					To enter	Final
Intercept	5	-,34				
Coloured girls	1	-,78	,17		59,57**	43,31**
Mothers' Rejection towards Sons	2	-,03	,22	,05	19,91**	26,73**
Mothers' Indulgence towards Sons	3	,03	,24	,02	7,22**	-
Mothers' Rejection towards Daughters	4	-,03	,25	,01	5,23*	8,85**
Coloured Mothers' Anti-hedonism	5	,10	,26	,01	3,80	3,96
Boys	5	,85	,26	,00	14,11**	14,11**

* $p < ,05$
** $p < ,01$

Table 10 shows the results of the multiple regression analysis for the dependent variable 'Teenage Sexual Ethnocentricism' and the previously named independent variables.

The first independent variable to enter the equation, accounting for 13% of the variance in teenage sexual ethnocentricism is Race. Coloureds show significantly more teenage sexual ethnocentricism than Whites. $\underline{F}$ = 42,45 to enter the equation and $\underline{F}$ = 33,84 in the final equation ($p < ,01$).

Coloured mothers' social acceptance bears a negative relationship to teenage sexual ethnocentricism. The $\underline{F}$ value to enter the equation is 5,60 ($p < ,05$), and it does not appear in the final equation.

Coloured fathers' discipline is positively related to their children's sexual ethnocentricism. $\underline{F}$ = 15,42 to enter the equation and $\underline{F}$ = 13,57 in the final equation ($p < ,01$). However, White fathers' discipline is significantly but negatively related to their children's teenage sexual ethnocentricism and contributes 2% to the variance of this dependent variable. $\underline{F}$ = 31,18 to enter and $\underline{F}$ = 13,81 in the final equation ($p < ,01$).

Fathers' indulgence towards girls is negatively related to teenage sexual ethnocentricism. $\underline{F}$ is significant in the final equation ($\underline{F}$ = 6,10) ($p < ,01$).

Coloured mothers' rejecting style towards daughters is significantly and positively related to teenage sexual ethnocentricism. ($\underline{F}$ = 4,14) in the final equation ($p < ,05$), but this does not contribute to the variance in teenage sexual ethnocentricism.

The above six predictors account for 19% of the variance in teenage sexual ethnocentricism.

TABLE 10

MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS FOR THE DEPENDENT VARIABLE TEENAGE SEXUAL ETHNOCENTRICISM

Independent variable entering equation	Step	B value in final equation	R^a	Increase in R^2	F	
					To enter	Final
Intercept	5	1,13				
Coloureds	1	-1,79	,13		42,45**	33,84**
Coloured Mothers' Social Acceptance	2	-,10	,14	,01	5,60*	-
Coloured Fathers' Discipline	3	,04	,15	,01	15,42**	13,57**
Fathers' Discipline	3	-,03	,17	,02	12,86**	- 13,81**
Fathers' Indulgence towards Daughters	4	-,01	,19	,02	2,09	6,10**
Coloured Mothers' Rejection towards Daughters	5	,01	,19	,00	4,14*	4,14*

* $p < ,05$
** $p < ,01$

Sources of Sexual Information

The responses to these questions were analysed non-parametrically using Chi-squared statistics. X^2 is a measure of the departure of obtained frequencies from the frequencies expected by chance, and tests for equality between groups.

There was a significant difference between Whites and Coloureds in the number of children reporting information received from mothers or fathers or both. $X^2(1) = 8,77$, $p = ,032$. Approximately the same number in both groups report receiving information from mothers and from fathers,

with more Whites reporting receiving information from both parents, and more Coloureds giving no answer to this item.

Significant differences again appear in the response to the question of information received from peers at primary school and at high school; $\underline{X}^2$ (1) = 9,66, p = ,021, with Whites reporting more information among friends. White children report attending more 'organised sex education lectures'; $\underline{X}^2(1)$ = 31,41, p = ,000. Whites again report receiving more information from books than do Coloureds; $\underline{X}^2(1)$ = 9,67, p = ,008. Likewise Whites report more information from magazines; $\underline{X}^2(1)$ = 8,36, p = ,015. Factual sources provide more information for Whites; $\underline{X}^2(1)$ = 16,91, p = ,000, as well as fiction sources; $\underline{X}^2(1)$ = 16,52, p = ,000.

Whites score significantly more highly on the sex knowledge scale. Mean score for Whites is 11,61, for Coloureds $\underline{M}$ = 8,29; $\underline{F}$ = 113,08, df = 1,297, p < ,001. The fact that Whites report receiving more information from all sources cited above may account for the fact that they score more highly on the sex knowledge scale. Clearly the Whites in this study are the more advantaged group, in that they have more facilities available to them, their parents have more education (See Table 11), their library facilities are superior and literature is generally more available to them.

TABLE 11

TABLE OF OCCUPATION ANALYSED BY RACIAL GROUP

Occupation	White	Coloured
Higher professional	41	1
Professional Technical	44	28
Other non-manual	14	35
Skilled manual	7	18
Semi-skilled manual	0	36
Unskilled	0	3
Housewife	40	39

The Relationship of Age to children's variables

White males show a significant increase in sex knowledge with age ($r(71) = ,52$, $p = ,000$); however, as their sex knowledge increases, conservatism decreases ($r(71) = -,25$, $p = ,018$); conservatism does not change significantly with age ($r(71) = -,18$, $p = ,067$). Age shows a significant negative relationship with teenage sexual restrictiveness for White males ($R(71) = -,58$, $p = ,000$), while teenage sexual ethnocentricism shows a positive relationship with age in this group of subjects ($r(71) = ,45$, $p = ,000$).

For White females as sex knowledge increases conservatism decreases ($r(74) = -,20$, $p = ,049$); sex knowledge increases with age ($r(74) = ,22$, $p = ,028$). However, in contrast to White males, conservatism decreases as age increases ($r(74) = -,20$, $p = ,049$). Teenage sexual restrictiveness shows a negative relationship with age ($r(74) = -,491$, $p = ,000$) and teenage sexual ethnocentricism shows a positive relationship with age ($r(74) = ,129$, $p = ,001$).

The Coloured group, both male and female, show relationships between sex knowledge and conservatism. For males as sex knowledge increases, so conservatism decreases ($r(69) = -,27$, $p = ,007$). In this group sex knowledge does not increase significantly with age for males and females. The relationship between age and teenage sexual restrictiveness for Coloured males is a negative one ($r(69) = -,05$, $p = ,000$); between age and teenage sexual ethnocentricism there is a positive relationship ($r(81) = ,46$, $p = ,001$). For Coloured females, as sex knowledge increases, conservatism decreases ($r(11) = -,27$, $p = ,007$). The relationship between teenage sexual restrictiveness and age is negative ($r(81) = -,52$, $p = ,000$), and that between teenage sexual ethnocentricism and age is positive ($r(18) = ,27$, $p = ,007$), thus showing the same type of relationships as are evident in the other three groups.

Differences between boys and girls

Differences emerge between males and females in several areas. Girls score more highly than boys on sex knowledge ($\underline{M}$ = 10,31 for girls and $\underline{M}$ = 9,50 for boys ($\underline{F}$ = 4,94, df = 1,297, p < ,03).

In the regression analysis Coloured females emerge as the group highest on teenage sexual restrictiveness and males emerge as less restrictive than females. In the analysis of variance, males emerge as significantly less restrictive than females ($\underline{F}$ = 17,92, df = 1,297, p < ,000) but the two sexes are not significantly different on teenage sexual ethnocentricism.

DISCUSSION

One of the principle aims of this research was to examine some of the processes by which attitudes are transmitted from parents to their children. In particular, it was intended to examine whether parental child-rearing styles and psychological conservatism bear a relationship to children's sexual attitudes and knowledge. By using a cross-cultural research method, it is possible to investigate whether differences are apparent between the two groups studied in the transmission of attitudes. As stated earlier (see Introduction), the prime motive for conducting cross-cultural research is the concern that theories have universal applicability (Malpass, 1977). A further aim was to examine the differing effects of fathers and mothers on their sons and daughters.

Because of the several different issues involved in the study, each will be discussed separately.

The Prediction of Children's Sexual Attitudes and Knowledge from Parental Attitudes

The research has demonstrated positive predictability of children's sexual attitudes and knowledge from parental attitudes. Each of the dependent variables and its predictors will be examined individually.

Children's Sex Knowledge

The strongest predictor of children's sex knowledge in this study is Coloured mothers' disciplinarian style, which shows a negative relationship to children's sex knowledge. Therefore, among Coloured children, sex knowledge is likely to be lower in those families where the mother is strongly disciplinarian or, to a lesser extent, indulgent. Coloured mothers' social acceptance/conformity is also negatively related to sex knowledge. South Africa has been shown to be an authoritarian culture (Orpen, 1975) with a strong religious ethic prevailing (Barling & Evans, 1978; Michener, 1978; Loubser, 1978). It is not socially acceptable to

discuss sexual matters openly with children, and children of parents high on South African conformity may have lower sex knowledge. This may be due to the belief, widespread among parents, that increasing the amount of sexual information to teenagers leads to sexual experimentation. Strongly disciplinarian mothers, high on social conformity, would disapprove of any overt display or discussion of sexuality or sexual matters. They might punish or in any other way inhibit such behaviour, practising the habit of non-labelling, mis-labelling or showing disapproval (Gagnon & Simon, 1973). However, Coloured mothers' protectiveness correlates with increased sex knowledge in their daughters. This may be due to these mothers increasing the amount of sexual information given their daughters in an attempt to protect against sexual experimentation. In contrast to this is the finding that fathers' protectiveness in both cultural groups correlates with reduced sex knowledge of their sons. Apart from White fathers' protectiveness correlating negatively with their sons' sex knowledge, there are no further correlations between the dependent and independent variables in the White group.

Children's Sexual Conservatism

Coloured mothers' discipline correlates with sexual conservatism in their children, again emphasising the stress on strict rules and punishments and anti-hedonistic beliefs. Mothers' rejection in both groups leads to lower conservatism (sexual), suggesting the seeking of affiliation outside the family and greater vulnerability to outside models. Coloured mothers who are protective will also have children who are less sexually conservative. Perhaps the same hypothesis may be advanced here as in the case of increased sex knowledge from protective mothers. That is, in having greater sex knowledge, attitudes become more liberal. There is a suggestion that Coloured mothers' and fathers' anti-hedonism is related

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to children's sexual conservatism, but the latter positively and the former negatively, supporting the view that mothers and fathers display different behaviour towards sons and daughters (Block, 1973, 1979; Kelly & Worrell, 1976).

In the White group, only mothers' rejecting style appears, relating negatively to their children's conservatism.

Teenage Sexual Restrictiveness

Coloured girls are the highest group of the four studied on this factor. In view of the strong emergence of Coloured mothers' disciplinarian style throughout the analysis, this result is not unexpected. Strict rules and punishments and increased conservatism, with its preference for the conventional (Wilson, 1973) and its stress on social conformity and social acceptance (Barling & Evans, 1978) might logically correlate with increased restrictiveness in children. However, Coloured mothers' rejecting style towards their sons leads to reduced restrictiveness in both groups, supporting the research that has shown that rejection leads to reduced restrictiveness in children's behaviour. Mothers' rejecting style towards girls, in both the White and the Coloured group, shows the same correlation as with boys, for the same reasons. However, mothers' indulgence towards sons correlates with increased restrictiveness in both cultural groups. Perhaps this can be ascribed to greater identification with such mothers, and sons remaining closer to parental standards.

Teenage Sexual Ethnocentricism

Coloured children are much higher on this factor than are Whites, showing a stronger rejection of parental standards. As children become higher on teenage sexual ethnocentricism, the generation gap widens.

This finding is in the direction hypothesised, because of the recently heightened awareness of Coloured teenagers and their increased resistance to restrictions placed on them and their increasing independence of attitude formation (Race Relations News, 1980). Although the attitudes referred to above may be mainly political, this could result in a general withdrawal from parental standards and attitudes in all areas of life. Further, Coloured mothers' stress on social conformity/acceptance may strengthen their children's rejection of adult standards, and lead to increased teenage sexual ethnocentricism.

Coloured fathers' discipline correlates positively with their children's teenage sexual ethnocentricism, but White fathers' discipline shows a relationship with lessened teenage sexual ethnocentricism, showing different relationships between the races.

Indulgent fathers' daughters are lower on this dimension.

However, in accord with previous findings in this study, Coloured mothers' rejection correlates with increased teenage sexual ethnocentricism. This is to be expected, since an increase in this factor means a greater distance from parental standards, which has been shown to be the case with rejecting attitudes of parents.

In the White group, fathers' discipline and fathers' indulgence towards daughters both correlate negatively with teenage sexual ethnocentricism.

Parental Attitudes and Children's Social Attitudes

The dependent variables children's Religious Conservatism, Ethnocentricism, Social Conformity/Acceptance, Punitiveness and the global Conservatism score and their predictors will be discussed. Social attitudes have been shown to correlate highly with sexual attitudes (Eysenck, 1976; Staples, 1978). Further, many of the items pertain to

sexual attitudes and to issues concerned with sex-role identity, such as 'women judges', 'divorce' and 'playing doctors'. Therefore, an analysis of parental and children's correlations on these variables will add a further dimension to the prediction of children's attitudes from parental attitudes.

Children's Religious Conservatism

Mothers' rejecting style correlates with reduced religious conservatism in children of both cultural groups. Thus, when mothers display rejection, their children become less religious and conservative, and less believing in such items as obedience, saying prayers and bible reading, indicating perhaps greater independence and greater security. However, the abandonment of such religious controls could lead to more permissiveness and seeking of affiliation outside the family, as a rebellion against parents. Conversely, mothers' disciplinarian style correlates with increased religious conservatism in both groups of children. Fathers' anti-hedonism also increases religious conservatism, as hypothesised. Religious beliefs are, to some extent, anti-hedonistic.

Children's Ethnocentricism

Coloured mothers' disciplinarian style again predicts increased ethnocentricism in children, as does Coloured fathers' disciplinarianism.

Both Coloured fathers' rejecting style and fathers' rejecting style in general towards their sons shows a negative relationship with ethnocentricism, again supporting the theory that rejection may result in children becoming more vulnerable to outside models and influences, perhaps in rebellion against parents.

Mothers' indulgence towards daughters and fathers' indulgence towards all children correlates with lowered ethnocentricism in their children.

This finding supports the theory that posits that children not brought up with rules and punishments and boundaries on their behaviour will not model such behaviour, and so will not impose these boundaries and restrictions on others (Bandura, 1977).

In the White group, only mothers' indulgent style is negatively related for females, and fathers' rejecting style is negatively related for males, thus showing the more extensive relationships of Coloured parents attitudes to those of their children.

Children's Social Acceptance/Conformity

Mothers' discipline in both groups is again strongly evident here, correlating positively with social conformity in their children. Mothers high on rejection are more likely to have children who are less socially conforming and less concerned about social acceptability.

White fathers' social conformity appears to be modelled by their children.

Protective fathers are also more likely to have conforming children, thus confirming the theory that these children are impeded from socialising adequately.

Indulgent mothers' sons are less conformist. Because of the warmth and acceptance experienced, these males are free to experiment with a variety of behaviours.

Children's Punitiveness

Coloured mothers' anti-hedonism relates positively to their children's punitiveness. Since punitiveness is measured by items such as 'strapping bad boys' and 'playing pranks', this would be a logical connection with anti-hedonism. There are no relationships in the White group.

Fathers' discipline also correlates with children's punitiveness in

both groups, but not significantly.

The Disciplinarian Child-Rearing Style

The influence of the disciplinarian style is particularly marked in the regression analyses. Further, where this style appears, it correlates positively with increased conservatism in children, in both groups. The only exception to this is the finding that fathers' discipline correlates with reduced teenage sexual ethnocentricism. This finding may be explained by the fact that fathers may have high status in the family and their discipline may be of an authoritative and not an authoritarian nature (Baumrind, 1971). This could lead to increased identification with the father and thus to less rejection of adult standards.

The negative relationship between mothers' disciplinarian style and children's sex knowledge has been explained previously (see discussion on Children's Sex Knowledge).

The fact that the disciplinarian style emerges strongly in this analysis may be due to the predominance of the disciplinarian style within an authoritarian culture (Barling & Evans, 1978). This would support Boshier and Izard's (1972) finding that more conservative parents use more controlling and harsher child-rearing practices. Alternatively, it may be ascribed to the fact that the Discipline and Rejecting scales of the MPAS have been shown to be particularly sensitive (Brody, 1965, 1969; Lillico, 1979).

The Rejecting Child-Rearing Style

The effect of this style is particularly noteworthy in the present research. Besides emerging very frequently in the analyses, it must be pointed out that this is the only attitude that appears consistently across sexes and across races (that is, in 'religious conservatism', in

'Social Acceptance', in 'Sexual Conservatism' in the global 'Conservatism Score' and in 'Teenage Sexual Restrictiveness'). Rejection has been shown to be one of the most detrimental attitudes to the well-being of the child (Hetherington et al., 1971). It has also been shown to be more consistent and stable over time than most parental attitudes (Brody, 1965, 1969). It has been reported that both fathers and mothers of delinquents hold significantly more rejecting attitudes towards their sons than do parents of non-delinquents (Hetherington, 1971; McCord & McCord, 1964). This might reduce modelling on parents, and since parental warmth is not experienced by the child, alternative models are sought. In the present study, rejection shows a negative relationship to the majority of variables with which it correlates; that is, this research supports the theory that rejecting attitudes may reduce modelling, and this is so regardless of the cultural group to which children belong. Further, rejecting attitudes, particularly of the mother, are correlated with reduced restrictiveness of children in this research. This finding is in accord with that of Hetherington et al., (1971) and McCord & McCord (1964), who report more rejecting attitudes in parents of delinquents than of normals. However, it must be noted that the prominence of the rejecting style may also be attributed to the fact that the MPAS Rejecting Scale has been found to be a particularly sensitive instrument (Brody, 1965, 1969). It has also been found to be an indicator of emotional distance between mother and child. Brody (1965, 1969) also reported that both the Disciplinarian and Rejecting sub-scales have been found to be predictive of behaviour.

The Protective Child-Rearing Style

This parental style does not have significant relationships with children's variables in the analyses described above. This may be due to the fact that the MPAS Protective Scale is not as sensitive as the

Rejecting or Disciplinarian Scales (Brody, 1965, 1969; Lillico, 1979), or perhaps this style does not have significant relationships with children's sexual attitudes or knowledge. What is evident here is that protective fathers might have sons lower on sex knowledge. This may be ascribed to the reason previously mentioned, that protective fathers might wish to lessen the risk of their sons experimenting with sexual knowledge, or may regard them as "children" with little right to such information. The finding that fathers' protectiveness correlates with increased social conformity supports the view that protective attidues prevent risk-taking in children. Mothers' protectiveness towards males correlates with increased teenage sexual restrictiveness. All these findings support the research that emphasises the negative nature of the protective child-rearing style (Baumrind, 1971; Hurlock, 1975).

The Indulgent Child-Rearing Style

The Indulgent style correlates negatively with the variables with which it is connected in this research. For example, fathers' indulgence and daughters' teenage sexual ethnocentricism are negatively related. Mothers' indulgence relates negatively to their daughters' ethnocentricism. The only exception is that indulgent mothers have sons who are likely to be higher on teenage sexual restrictiveness. This may support the theory that without boundaries on their behaviour, children may become insecure and this may lead to greater restrictiveness (Role, 1971). However, in both cultural groups, fathers' indulgent style decreases their daughters' teenage sexual ethnocentricism. Perhaps daughers of indulgent fathers feel closer to adults because they are able to express themselves freely without fear of criticism or censure, while experiencing the warmth inherent in the indulgent style. Therefore, they do not so readily reject adult standards and institutions, such as marriage and the family unit.

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Mothers' indulgence decreases their daughters ethnocentricism (conservatism) and boys' stress on social acceptance/conformity. Indulgent parental attitudes, with their concomitant warmth, appear to lessen teenage sexual ethnocentricism and so decrease the 'generation gap'. This child-rearing style seems to be predictive of reduced psychological conservatism, including a lowering of ethnocentricism and social conformity.

Althouth the indulgent and the rejecting parental style both show negative relationships with the relevant dependent variables, it is hypothesised that the effects on children's emotional development and behaviour differs with the two styles. The principal difference is that indulgence is accompanied by warmth on the part of the parent (Baumrind, 1971; Pumroy, 1966), whereas rejection would not be associated with that quality. Therefore, where indulgence may correlate with lessened teenage sexual ethnocentricism, restrictiveness and conservatism, this may be accompanied by lower insecurity and fear of uncertainty on the part of the child. However, with rejection, the lower restrictiveness and conservatism may imply rebellion against parents and a distancing from parental attitudes, less as an indication of maturity than as an indication of emotional distance and the widening of the 'generation gap'.

The Differences Encountered in the Two Cultural Groups

Clearly then, we may predict certain sexual and social attitudes from parental attitudes. Howev[illegible]e use of the cross cultural research method highlights the fact that [illegible]e correlations between the independent and the dependent variables are considerably different in the two cultures. There are different relationships both between and within the two groups, in both the size and direction of the regression weights. (Table 12). These findings are in support of the social learning theory

of development that posits that children learn through a system of differential rewards and punishments and through observational learning. "Both people and their environments are reciprocal determinants of each other". (Bandura, 1977, p.vii).

TABLE 12

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PARENTAL VARIABLES AS RELATED TO CHILDREN'S SEX ATTITUDES AND KNOWLEDGE IN THE TWO CULTURAL GROUPS

Dependent Variable	Whites Independent Variables	Coloureds Independent Variables
Children's Sex Knowledge	Fathers' Protectiveness towards sons (-,0[illegible] **	Fathers' Protectiveness towards sons (-,05)** Mothers' Discipline (-,18)** Mothers' Social Acceptance (-,62)** Mothers' Indulgence (,08)* Mothers' Protectiveness (,09)*
Children's Sexual Conservatism	Mothers' Rejection (-,01)	Mothers' Discipline (,04)** Mothers' Rejection (-,01) Mothers' Protectiveness (-,02)* Fathers' anti-hedonism (-,08) Mothers' anti-hedonism (,07)
Children's 'Teenage Sexual Restrictiveness'	Mothers' Rejection (-,03)** Mothers' Indulgence towards Sons (,03)**	Mothers' Rejection (-,03)** Mothers' Indulgence towards Sons (,03)** Mothers' anti-hedonism (-,10)
Children's 'Teenage Sexual Ethnocentricism'	Fathers' discipline (-,03)** Fathers' indulgence towards daughters (-,01)**	Fathers' discipline (,04)** Fathers' indulgence towards daughters (-,01)** Mothers' Social Acceptance (-,10)* Mothers' Rejection (,01)

* $p < ,05$
** $p < ,01$

The attitudes of the Coloured parents have stronger correlations and more pervasive relationships with their children's variables than appear in the White group. In particular, Coloured mothers' disciplinarian style is predominant, especially in relations to their children's sex knowledge and conservatism factors. This variable enters the equation ahead of all others in four of the eight dependent variables studied.

The relationship of parents to their children varies with the cultural group to which they belong. The more pervasive correlations of Coloured parents' variables to their children's variables may be ascribed to a number of reasons. The Coloureds lead a more resricted life than do the Whites in South Africa. This may be due to there being fewer recreational and vacational facilities for the Coloured population. Therefore, children are subject to parental influences for greater periods and for a greater length of time than are Whites. In addition, they are less influenced by the media such as cinema and home viewing of movies, and probably receive less influence from written sources. However, the pervasive relationships may also be due to the strength of the Coloured mothers' disciplinarian attitudes. The disciplinarian style may be a powerful source of identification for the children, because the dispenser of discipline may have high status in the eyes of the children, as well as holding the power to reward behaviour. In other words, the mother holds the social power in terms of controlling the resources in the family and is therefore a source of imitative behaviour (McDonald, 1977, 1980; Smith, 1970).

The Differences in Mothers' and Fathers' Relationships with their Children

Regarding the relative influence of mothers and fathers on their children, it would appear from this research that mothers' attitudes bear a stronger relationship to their children's attitudes than do those of

fathers, in both groups studied. Of the eight dependent variables, six show mothers' attitudes to be more strongly correlated with children's than are fathers' attitudes. In two of these eight dependent variables, only mothers' attitudes are evident, to the exclusion of fathers'; these two being children's sexual conservatism and teenage restrictiveness. Even when fathers' variables contribute to the dependent variables, the mothers' variables enter the equation before the fathers', thus accounting for a considerably greater percentage of the variance.

Much of the literature concerned with the issue of the relationship of parental to children's attitudes has stressed the strength of the connection between fathers' attitudes and those of adolescents of both sexes (Bowerman & Bahr, 1973; McDonald, 1977, 1980; Smith, 1970). However, much of this research was based on adolescent perceptions of parental attitudes and power. In contrast, the present research is based on mothers' and fathers' self-report of attitudes. An alternative explanation for the present results may be that in South Africa, characterised as being a conventional authoritarian society (Heaven, 1977; Orpen, 1975), the mothers' and fathers' roles are clearly delineated in the traditional way. Thus the mother is the principal care-taker of the children and dispenser of psychological and material rewards and punishments. The distribution of rewarding power within the family has been shown to be a major determinant of the amount of modelling on parents by children (McDonald, 1977, 1980). Further, the mother is more available to the child generally and therefore will be a more powerful model.

This may be particularly so in respect of the formation of sexual attitudes and knowledge. It seems from previous research (Fox & Inazu, 1980; Thornburg, 1975; Welbourne, 1978), and from this study, that within the family the responsibility for the sexual socialisation of children of both sexes rests primarily with the mother. A number of reasons, all speculative, have been advanced by Fox & Inazu (1980) for this gender-

typing, all of which are particularly relevant here. Women have a greater ability, through sex-role socialisation, to deal with socio -emotional and interpersonal values and issues; the association between sexual education and aspects of female development, such as menstruation, pregnancy and birth, and sexual socialisation is seen as an extension of the maternal function.

The above observations may account for the fact that strong relationships are evident in the present research between mothers' general attitudes and child-rearing styles and their children's sexual attitudes and knowledge. The stress on the maternal role in sexual socialisation may account for the more marked relationships with mothers' attitudes in the present research, in contrast to previous studies which stressed stronger correlations with fathers' attitudes in children of both sexes. These previous studies did not examine the sexual attitudes of children (Bahr et al., 1974; McDonald, 1977, 1980).

Parents and Children's Conservatism

Regarding the influence of parents' conservatism factors on children's knowledge and attitudes, it is extremely interesting to note that only the factors of mothers' and fathers' social acceptance and anti-hedonism show a relationship to children's attitudes of teenage sexual restrictiveness, teeneage sexual ethnocentricism and sexual conservatism. The factors of control and ethnocentricism show no significant relationshiops at all in any of the four groups of children. This would indicate little modelling of children on parental attitudes. The finding that the rejecting and disciplinarian styles of parents show significant relationships with children's variables in both race groups, may account for the lack of modelling on parents' conservatism attitudes. Block (1973) found that the parents of rebellious children are more concerned with social

acceptance than with the child's individuality. This orientation tends to increase the use of guilt-oriented disciplinary techniques and to lead parents to sacrifice the child's needs for the approval of others. The lack of significant relationships between parents' and children's conservatism might support research such as that of Orloff (1975) who proposed that the items may have different meanings for the two generations, or the view of Curtis (1975) that there is an increasing independence in opinion formation, rather than a shift from parents. It is interesting to note that the parental conservatism factors that relate to children's attitudes are those concerned with sex-related issues, such as abortion, censorship, working mothers and women judges.

Once again, in evaluating the effect of parents' conservatism on their children's conservatism, the mothers' influence is stronger than the fathers'. The latter influence being evident only on two of the conservatism factors: those of religion and social acceptance. The fact that both of these relationships occur in the White group may indicate that within a more highly educated group fathers have more time to spend with their children and therefore have a greater influence on them.

Age and Children's Sexual Attitudes and Knowledge

For both the White and Coloured groups teenage sexual restrictiveness decreases with age and teenage sexual ethnocentricism increases with age. This result is consistent with previous research showing a lessening of the differences between older male and female adolescents in sexual attitudes (Hopkins, 1977; Miller & Simon, 1974; Vener, Stewart & Hager, 1972), and the greater sexual freedom in this group. The positive relationship between age and teenage sexual ethnocentricism is consistent with research demonstrating the increasing individuation and autonomy of older adolescents (Conger, 1975; Curtis, 1975; Newman & Newman, 1979). It is also

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