

Paternal Disciplinary Styles in Two Cultures: Australia and India

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ABSTRACT Fifty-five Australian and 55 Indian fathers of 4 to 6 years old children participated in the present study. A questionnaire was used to gather information on family demographic and father beliefs and practices about disciplinary styles. The results of this study indicated cultural similarities and differences. In both cultures, fathers were more likely to use induction and believed that children respond better to reasoning (percentages were higher of Indian fathers) and a combination of reasoning and punishment. A few Australian fathers also believed of privileges. Compared to more educated fathers, less educated fathers in both cultural groups were more likely to use verbal reprimand, deprivation of privileges and physical punishment. Fathers in both cultural groups practiced similar disciplinary methods of 4 to 6 years old sons and daughters.