The mediating effects of self-esteem on the relationship between parenting styles and academic achievement of form four students in Klang Valley

Uvarani Shannugam and Fonny Hutagalung
Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling, Faculty of Education, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ABSTRACT: Adolescents and parents both go through a transition period, where the parents need to play a vital role to make this transition period a comfortable one for their teens. It is observed that the teens are less likely to take risks if they have good relationships with their parents. This study attempts to investigate the relationship of parenting styles on self-esteem and academic achievement of form four students in Klang Valley. Besides that, this study also aims to identify the most practiced parenting style among the fathers and mothers of the students and also the level of self-esteem among the students. The respondents are 380 secondary school students studying in form four consisting of both male and female students who are included in this study with the age range of 16 to 17 years from selected secondary schools in Klang Valley. Data are collected from the students who completed questionnaires that include the Parental Authority Questionnaire (PAQ) and the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSE). The findings show that gender has no significant influence on the academic achievement and self-esteem among the students. The findings also indicate that self-esteem strongly mediates the association between the authoritarian style among mothers and academic achievements among the students. In general, the findings show that the most practiced styles of parents were mixed modes: Authoritarian, Authoritative and Permissive styles.

Keywords: parenting styles; self-esteem; academic achievement

1 INTRODUCTION
Adolescence which means “to grow up” is one of the phases in the life of a teenager who will go through many kinds of changes in order to transform themselves into an adult. It is a transition period between childhood and adulthood where they undergo changes psychologically and physically. Some parents tend to be confused or frustrated in handling their teens during this period, although these developments are natural in an adolescent’s growth. According to Dechampde (2013), parents play an important role in their children’s adolescent development. Therefore, it is essential for parents to understand the characteristic in adolescent development and learn the parenting skills so that they can handle their teens efficiently.

Studies related to academic achievement have always received much attention and interest from educators, policy makers, parents and students. Educators and policy makers, for example, regard academic achievement as a relevant and necessary measurement of educational outcomes. For them, it is imperative that a fast developing nation like Malaysia produces a positive educational outcome to form a pool of highly qualified resources in order to meet their national 2020 vision.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW
The current study focuses on the relationship between three main parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian and permissive) and its impact on the self-esteem of adolescent students. Past studies in the field of parenting styles and self-esteem have generally pointed out that there is a strong relationship between the two. A study done by Hoscay et al. (2012) has focused on the environment where children are raised, contributing significantly to the development of their self-esteem. Yang & Liang (2008) suggested more precisely that nurturing and supportive parenting styles could improve children’s self-esteem. This statement indicates that further investigation needs to be done on the connection between parenting styles and self-esteem. A research has been done on the effects of specific parenting styles, which concluded that these styles