

Review of: "Psychiatric Diagnostic Classification System Based on New Forms of Parenting Practices: an Invite for a Rethink"

John Philip Louis

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

1. The questions asked under the "Some Key Questions" were excellent and are pertinent ones.
2. You stated, "All these systems have their diagnostic frameworks for mental health disorders. Irrespective of Western or Eastern, all these systems invariably target children as objects of nosology, taxonomy, and labeling." While there are those that target children but it is not accurate to say "all". To do so would be overstating the harm. Early models such as those such as Murray (see https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-1-4684-4442-1_8) advocates the interactions between parent and child and does not put the blame on the child per se. In fact it targets unhealthy roles with improper use of power as a controlling factor as well as family members forming unhealthy coalitions and targetting another members. This system proposed is balanced. There are other excellent models such as those developed by Minuchin's (see <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/016128498248845> for reference). Therefore kindly revise this sentence and remove the word "all".
3. Under this section there was a sentence that needs revision:

"Cannot the behavior issues seen in children be a sign of unrecognized or untreated pathology in parenting?" Please substitute the word "Cannot" with a more suitable word, such as "Could not these behavioral issues..." Please add a reference to this part as well.

"Incorrect social skills in parents are linked to the child's poor academic performance, shyness, non-assertion, conduct, or opposition defiant disorder. If this is true, the crucial question is why are parents absolved and the brunt of diagnostic labeling, and treatment is directed only on children?" (References needed).

4. It was stated under the section "The Present Narrative" that: "The Parental Bonding Instrument (PBI, Parker, Tupling & Brown, 1979) is a self-report questionnaire to assess an individual's perception of anomalies in a relationship with one's parents, such as neglect or over-protection. This does indicate parenting patterns though these are not comprehensive. But it is incorrect to say that "However, none of these systems primarily targets parents in their diagnostic nomenclature." Please include more updated published works such as: Louis, J.P. The Young Parenting Inventory (YPI-R3), and the Baumrind, Maccoby and Martin Parenting Model: Finding Common Ground. *Children*, 2022, 9(2), 159. <https://doi.org/10.3390/children9020159> ; Louis, J.P., Louis, K. M., & Lockwood, G. (2022). Development and Validation of the Young Parenting Inventory (YPI-R3) for Measuring Past Deviant and Normal Variations in Parenting. *Children* (Basel, Switzerland), 9(5), 706. <https://doi.org/10.3390/children9050706>. These works provide more specific

parenting patterns.

Furthermore, more recent works will show that the push for diagnosing parenting skills is something not just advocated by those in the late 70s (based on your reference) but also by others in recent times.

5. Under this same section it was stated “A system for the classification of anomalies in parenting from theoretical frameworks to practical tools for assessment and intervention would be beneficial in identifying and addressing problematic parenting behaviors that lead to negative outcomes for children”. There are many sources that does this, for example the “Good Enough Parenting” program and book (ref: Louis, J. P., & Louis, K. M. (2020). *Good enough parenting* (Second edition): A schema therapy parenting programme. Singapore: *Louis Counselling & Training Services Pte. Ltd.*).; *the Kazdin method* (see <https://www.alankazdin.com/>); *the Gottman coaching method* (see <https://www.gottman.com/product/emotion-coaching-the-heart-of-parenting-online/>).

6. It was stated “When some of the guilt or hurt is transferred to their parents, it can significantly lessen the stigma associated with such children.”

It would be better to not state that “hurt should be transferred”. Rather state that the source of harm has roots in dysfunctional parenting methods.

7. It was sated: “When a parent is diagnosed, some of them may experience stigma, guilt, hurt, or reluctance to seek support or assistance.” Rather state that when parenting is diagnosed, some...” The focus should be on parenting, not the parent per se.

8. Last but not least, it can result in a restricted focus on diagnosis and treatment rather than a more all-encompassing strategy that incorporates early intervention, prevention, and support for the entire family (Holden, 2019; Teti, 2016; Arnold et al. 1993; Louis et al. 2020 (ref: Louis, J. P., & Louis, K. M. (2020). *Good enough parenting* (Second edition): A schema therapy parenting programme. Singapore: *Louis Counselling & Training Services Pte. Ltd.*). I added more references.

9. It was sated: “There are some notable differences between Eastern and Western approaches to parenting. In general, Eastern parenting tends to be more authoritarian, with a focus on obedience and respect for authority figures. Western parenting tends to be more permissive, with a focus on independence and self-expression.” Please add references when a statement of fact is made.

10. Parents' mental health and that of their children are closely related. Parents who struggle with their mental health issues, such as overcoming anxiety, sadness, or worry, may find it challenging to look after their children. Please add a reference here and state where this information was derived from.

11. I have revised a portion under “Evidence in Favor” which are as follows: “Among several things, the four main parenting styles recognized in child developmental psychology are based on the theory of Diana Baumrind (1971). They are: permissive, authoritative, authoritarian, and neglectful. A recent classification adds hyper-, hypo-, atypical, and indifferent forms of contemporary parenting (Venkatesan, 2020; 2019a; 2019b). However, Louis et al., (2022) has provided more specific forms under each of these three negative parenting styles - permissive, authoritarian and neglectful

(Louis, J.P. The Young Parenting Inventory (YPI-R3), and the Baumrind, Maccoby and Martin Parenting Model: Finding Common Ground. *Children*, 2022, 9(2), 159. <https://doi.org/10.3390/children9020159> . More specific patterns on the positive parenting style labelled authoritative have also emerged and been identified (Louis et al., 2020 - Ref - Louis, J. P., Davidson, A., Lockwood, G., & Wood, A. (2020). Positive perceptions of parenting and their links to theorized core emotional needs. *Journal of Child and Family Studies* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-020-01807-0>). Rather than relying on the model of providing general classification of parenting styles these more specific ones have the potential to provide greater awareness on the part of parents, clinicians and educators on what was done wrong as well as what was done right.

Each style is characterized by various degrees of parent demand and responsiveness. These new approaches could become the needed ingredients for the diagnostic classification of parenting that is proposed for the future. Studies on parenting styles used in children/adolescents and their connection to mental health or psychopathology in later life have repeatedly been demonstrated through empirical studies (Azman et al. 2021; Eun et al. 2018).

12. It was stated “Children reared under an **authoritative parenting style** frequently show signs of emotional stability, independence, and self-assurance (References needed). They outperform children raised with less healthy parenting styles in terms of academic performance, social skills, and active coping mechanisms.” I substituted “alternative” with “less healthy”.

13. Under section “Conditions Made Possible by Faulty Parenting”. Kindly revise this to some like “Parenting Patterns that is Associated with the Development of Personality Disorder”. The current title renders the meaning of causality and as the author stated parenting is multi faceted and a wide array of factors contribute to negative and positive outcomes in children. Given its multifaceted process it is best to use the word “associated”. Also please insert reference here by Young et. al (2003) - who work on personality disorders using schema therapy has been monumental. Ref: Young, J. E., Klosko, J. S., & Weishaar, M. E. (2003). Schema therapy: A practitioner’s guide. NY: The Guilford Press.

14. It was stated "Parent-child relationships are important in the emergence of **somatization symptoms and conversion disorders**. This is statement that needs references.

15. The statement needs to be revised: “Although not true, as reported, many parents of children who are “late talkers,” or show “speech-language delays,” feel guilty or tend to believe that they are somehow responsible for the problem.” An example of a revision is as follows: “Many parents are inadvertently induced with guilt and feel responsible for their children's speech impairments.”

16. It was stated “Although lying to children is a common parenting approach, children who frequently see such situations while growing up learn from their parents that lying is a legal way to accomplish their objectives”. I suggest not use the word legal but "an appropriate way to preserve their self-esteem and or protect their interests.

17. It was stated “Rapid scoping reviews of 16 studies from three databases found that the common parenting characteristics noticed in children with **eating disorders** include divorce, marital conflict, domestic abuse, and tight

control.” Please include references here.

18. This statement was revised to the following: “These parents frequently become violent, abusive, and are often neglectful . They also expect complete obedience while intimidating others to follow their commands. They must manage, monitor, watch over, and control their child for what they perceive as good reasons”.

19. I am not sure if I agree with this statement, “An International Association for Parent and Caregiver Psychiatry or an Academy for Parent and Caregiver Psychiatry, however, currently do not exist and is the need of the times!” There are many helpful websites offering good parenting strategies. For example, <https://thegoodenoughparenting.com/> .