

**Discussion**

The aim of our research was to determine correlations between adolescents’ perfectionism and their parents’ parenting. Our findings confirmed that some dimensions of perfectionism according to Frost’s conception correlate with parenting styles, and it was also found that there are some differences in the mother’s and father’s parenting and its relationship to the perfectionism dimensions measured. The method itself includes the Parental Expectations and Parental Criticism dimension, which shows significant moderate relationships with all the factors of parental behaviour and attitudes in fathers and three dimensions (Directiveness, Hostility and Inconsistency) in mothers. The perfectionism dimensions Concern over Mistakes and Doubts about Actions showed a negative significant relationship with the father’s Positivity. The findings suggest that a lack of the father’s positive interest in his child influences to some extent his/her increased Concern over Mistakes and Doubts about Actions. Such a correlation was not confirmed in mothers. Concern over Mistakes and Doubts about Actions showed a weak significant relationship with Hostility in both fathers and mothers and also a moderate significant relationship with the father’s and mother’s Inconsistency. Our research findings point to the fact that hostile parents with an inconsistent parenting style increase Doubts about Actions in their children and also increase their Concern over Mistakes. The findings indicate possible validity of the social reaction model (Flett, Hewitt, 2002).

Our findings also confirm the findings by B. Soenens and A.J. Elliot et al. (2005), whose research study investigated whether parental perfectionism is a predictor of parental psychological control in girls. The study confirmed that parental perfectionism significantly predicted parental psychological control more in fathers than in mothers. In another study, involving a hundred undergraduates, G.L. Flett, P.L. Hewitt and A. Singer (1995) examined the association between dimensions of perfectionism and parenting styles. Their results showed that parental authority styles may contribute to the development of perfectionism. Based on the research, G.L. Flett asserts that perfectionism is a feature parents can pass down to their children. Similarly, K.Y. Kawamura, R.O. Frost and M.G. Harmatz (2002) confirm that an excessively authoritarian parenting style influences mainly the development of maladaptive perfectionism in children of such parents.

The Organization dimension showed no relationship with the father’s parenting style. In the mother’s parenting, a moderate relationship appeared between Organization and Positive Interest. Organization reflects an emphasis on order and structure in organizing one’s own things, which is mostly a parenting domain of mothers, who require their children to maintain order and schedule. A difference
in parental styles in relation to the dimensions of perfectionism appeared also in
the relationship between the mother’s Positive Interest and Personal Standards,
where a significant, weak relationship was confirmed between the variables.
There was no such correlation in fathers at all. It follows from our research that
the mother’s Positive Interest in her child influences his/her setting of Personal
Standards. It is possible that our finding points to the social expectations model,
thus the mother’s interest in her child acts upon the child as a motive to set higher
standards for him/herself, since the child can perceive parental expectations
regarding his/her performance.

Our research examined also the extent of perfectionistic cognitions presenting
the cognitive aspect of perfectionism. However, this did not appear as relevant
in relation to the variables of parents’ parenting attitudes and behaviour (except
Inconsistency, but there was only a weak significant relationship). This finding may
lead to the assumption that parental parenting influences more substantially the
emotional and conative aspects of perfectionism, while not affecting the cognitive
aspect so much. This assumption should be further verified.

Our research study focused on perceived parenting from the perspective of
adolescents. We have no information whether parents of perfectionistic children
are perfectionists themselves. Some research studies, such as, e.g., the research by
M.A. Besharad, K. Azzizi and H. Poursharifib (2011), confirm that the existence
of perfectionism in parents has a significant influence on the parenting style used
by them.

**Conclusion**

Perfectionism, mainly its maladaptive form, has a serious impact on an individ-
ual’s life, whether at school, work or in private. Perfectionism of youth need not
always manifest itself precisely in school performance. Maladaptive perfectionism
may manifest itself in adolescents also in other areas, such as, e.g., excessive focus
on looks, presentation on social networks, etc. A frequent and significant source
of perfectionism includes mainly family, especially perfectionistic parents as
social learning models, but also their parenting style. Our research pointed also
to differences in connections between the mother’s and father’s influence in the
development of perfectionism in children. Hostile and inconsistent parenting
turns out to be harmful. On the other hand, parents’ positive interest is rather
connected with adaptive aspects of perfectionism. However, our research findings
cannot be generalized, they are limited by the size and sampling.
References


