Student’s Name

Date of Interview

Parenting Styles Interview

Seeking to advance knowledge on parenting styles, I endeavored to conduct an interview that would provide insight into the same. Consequently, an interview with my mother that focused on her approach to parenting and the consequent changes in her perceptions on the same would provide the necessary information associated with the changes. I interviewed on Saturday evening when she had enough time to engage me and respond to all the questions asked with minimal interruptions.Before the interview, I made it clear to her that the information gathered would facilitate advancement in my course, which ensured that she had the necessary information on the uses of the data collected. I recorded the conversation on my phone and later transcribed the same for purposes of proper analysis of her responses to understand her perspectives. Consequently, the script herein contains the transcribed information from the conversation, which would make up the primary data on the research related to parenting styles.

**Parenting Styles**

Q: What would you say about your parenting style? What informs your relationship with your children?

**Mother**: I have always viewed parenting as an effort to make my children, you and your brother, responsible enough and capable of borrowing from what I teach you in applying to different social situations. An effort to guide you while at the same timemaking sure that youunderstand the reason for my guidance has always appeared to me to be an ideal way of ensuring that I prevent repetitive situations, in which I tell you one thing today, and may have to remind you how to approach a particular issue tomorrow. Primarily, I have always sought to help you think foryourself, in a manner acceptable to society.

Q: Did you adopt this philosophyalong the way as you were raising us,or had you always viewed parenting as such?

**Mother**: Absolutely not.I raised your brother so differently from how I raised you, as I grew to learn that I cannot always expect you to conform without giving you reasons for such opinions. I struggled so much trying to make your brother understand some of my reservations abouthis behavior as a teenager, and this led to a significant distance between us, which a sure you very well knew. When it came to you, I tried as much as possible to use the same approach I had used earlier, but this time ensuring that I made it clear to you the thought process that led me to makecertain arguments. I view this as the explanation to why you often find it easy talking to me and seeking guidance than your brother does. The approach made it possible for us to discuss issues, eventually with me influencing you into adopting the school of thought I thought to be most appropriate for various situations.

Q: Why had you not used the same interactive approach with my brother earlier?

**Mother**: As a new parent, you attempt to raise your children as you were raised. However, I had failed to understand the changes in society. The approach to parenting your grandparents had used on me was inapplicable while raising you and your brother. While they were always strict and expected me to follow their advice and instructions without questions, your brother, and you as well, always compare my actions to those of your friends’ parents. You do not follow instructions as blindly as we did growing up, and this creates a significant difference in the necessary parenting approach that would ensure that parents instill values in children while at the same maintaining an ideal relationship.

**Beliefs about Parenting**

Q: What do you think would be the optimal parenting style, considering that you experienced a change in the course of raising children, and had to adjust what you initially thought to be appropriate?

**Mother:** I believe the optimal parenting style to be one thatviews the child as an individual in need of guidance as opposed to one who should always follow everything a parent has to say. This dictatorial approach to parenting may not always be ideal, especially where the child is highly inquisitive. Ensuring that a parent accompanies instructions with a potential explanation that exemplifies the argument behind the instructions would help improve the relationship and build trust between the parent and the child. I believe that this approach would be important in preventing potential frustration for the parent whenever he or she has to constantly remind the child not to engage or engage in certain activities. Since the child has no rational explanation from which he or she could draw deductions on different cases, the parent has always tobe present to help the child make the right decisions.

Q: Would your approach not include leaving too much control to the child?

**Mother**: There is a difference between interacting and helping another individual understand the reasons forcertain arguments, and leaving it to them to make decisions. In my opinion, interaction and an effort to have the child understand various issues is different from leaving thechild to make decisionsindependently without much intervention. My approach to parenting ensures that the parent is in control of the activities by the child, just that the approach to guiding said children is based on the need for the child to understand issues rather than offering blind guidance.

**Transition to Parenthood**

Q: That is very informative. But how did you know that you were ready for parenting irrespective of the challenges experienced with raising children?

**Mother**: I did not have an actual rationale for determining whether I was ready to raise a child. This was the reason for the issues experienced with raising my first child, following what I thought was the right parenting style, only to later learn that parenting is relative to children and culture. I expected that the parenting approach would result in the development of ideal values for the child, which would be similar to myexperience. Your brother may have turned out as I expected, but the approach to achieving the outcome is not what I anticipated when I became a mother.

Q: Are there any sources of influence that you would advise anyone about to transition to motherhood to look out for in search of advice and potential insight?

**Mother:** I would advise anyone to follow his or her instinct in determining the most appropriate parenting styles. There is no one defined parenting approach that could be termed as better than others since children differ and what may be appropriate for one child may not be appropriate for another.