

PERCEIVED AUTHORITARIAN AND AUTHORITATIVE PARENTING STYLES
AND THEIR EFFECTS ON AMBITION
IN NETWORKERS IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

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The objective of this study was to investigate which of the two parenting styles (authoritarian or authoritative) had the most effect on ambition levels in networkers in Bangkok, Thailand. Research suggests that authoritarian parents cultivate children who are less likely to be emotionally secure, confident about their capabilities and to take risks. On the other hand, children who grow up with authoritative parents receive a supportive yet disciplined environment in which to flourish and develop increased self-esteem and sense of self-efficacy. These latter characteristics were hypothesized to equip children to grow into more competent and ambitious adults.

This study included 116 participants who attend networking events in Bangkok and this sample was chosen because of their inclination to the characteristics of ambition. The research instrument used in this study was a self-administered questionnaire that consisted of asking the participants about their personal information, parents' parenting style and ambition levels. The data were analyzed using the Chi-square test, *t* test and a multiple regression. The findings revealed higher ambition levels in participants who perceived their parents as authoritative ($r = .275$), compared to participants who perceived their parents to be authoritarian ($r = -.203$). There were also other factors that contributed to increased ambition levels and they include ethnicity, parents' education and parents' marital status. Recommendations for future research were included.