

**ABSTRACT****THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTING STYLES AND  
DEVIANT, DELINQUENT, AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOURS****BY****OOI SOOK TENG****JANUARY 2018****SUPERVISOR: DR. TERESA LIN SIEW FONG, PhD**

Recently, the involvement of youths in the deviant, delinquent, and criminal behaviours such as drugs, rape, robbery, and kidnapping are increasing rapidly. Since the development of a child depends greatly on the influence of a home environment, hence, the aim of this study was sought to examine the relationship between perceived parenting styles (Baumrind's typologies) and the level of criminal involvement among 150 youths of the age between 14-21. The study found that the combination of Baumrind's typologies and criminal involvements' questionnaire is also applicable to Asian population (Malaysia), where a significant relationship between the variables was found with the highest correlations of .868 and  $p < .001$ . Besides that, the results obtained from this study suggest that permissive parenting style instead of neglecting/rejecting parenting style acts as the most predictive factor in predicting Asian adolescent's involvement in deviant, delinquent, and criminal behaviours. The results obtained are surprising as it contradicts with previous studies, yet it demonstrates the importance of cultural factors which affect the parents' choices of parenting style in a different culture. Lastly, gender differences, in fact, also play an important role in affecting parent's parenting style and the involvement in problematic activities.