

Many factors influence the development of children's personalities. How a parent chooses to raise their child is among the prominent influences. Prior research has documented that parenting and attachment styles can influence the development of Dark Triad characteristics. However, few studies have investigated the effect of socioeconomic status on this relationship. The current study seeks to examine how socioeconomic status influences the relationship between parenting styles, attachment styles, and the development of Dark Triad characteristics. Participants included sixty-three post-secondary students enrolled at Brandon University in the year 2023. It was predicted that those who experienced high socioeconomic status growing up would perceive their parents parenting style as authoritative, would display secure attachment, and would possess low levels of Dark Triad characteristics. Furthermore, it was predicted that those who experienced low socioeconomic status growing up would perceive their parent's parenting style as authoritarian, would display avoidant attachment, and would possess high levels of Dark Triad characteristics. The results show that authoritarian parenting was significantly, positively correlated with anxious attachment. Both of which were associated with Machiavellianism and narcissism but not psychopathy. Authoritative parenting was not found to be related to any of the Dark Triad characteristics as expected. However, it was also not found to be related to secure attachment as was predicted. Mediation analysis yielded no significant results as socioeconomic status was not related to parenting styles, attachment styles, or Dark Triad characteristics. The results are limited by a small sample size. Further research may seek to examine the effects of socioeconomic status in a larger, more diverse population.