Childhood Entitlement Syndrome: What Can We Do about It?\textsuperscript{1}

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Abstract

Anecdotal encounters and popular press such as newspapers and televisions suggests the worrying increase of incidence involving children with manipulative and sometimes violent behaviors towards parents and others. This phenomenon has been described in different terms and languages, and recently branded as entitlement syndrome. This article seeks to identify various terms used to describe entitlement syndrome in both popular press and academic papers, behaviours associated with this syndrome, causes of the syndrome, and preventive and management strategies. Results of the literature review indicates that entitlement syndrome is described in various terms including, but not limited to, spoiled brat, narcissistic, manipulative, and pampered child. There can be many behaviours that indicate entitlement syndrome. Childrearing and parenting styles contribute significantly to the likelihood of childhood entitlement syndrome. Preventing childhood entitlement syndrome therefore involves healthy childrearing and parenting practices. This begins with parents having knowledge of childhood entitlement syndrome, and its immediate and long-term impacts on childhood development and adult outcomes. Parents must be aware of their parenting practices that can lead to the syndrome and be assisted with necessary changes.

\textit{Keywords}: Entitlement syndrome, childhood, parenting

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Introduction

According to a review of academic articles, newspaper, and television, parenting determines the behavior of children. The indulgent early childhood will cause the child to behave overbearing in response to parenting that focus too child-centered. Behavioral tendencies occur that tend to take over children, or even throughout life. This will lead to social problems that may follow. The children whose parents pamper often have trouble coping with the situation that conflict with their needs, such as teachers blaming or their friends refuse to play with them. In addition, children often find themselves having problems with controlling their anger, having high expectation, and lacking of interpersonal skills. Both parents need to be committed and cooperate to handle the problem. In some families, the father or mother may refuse the other party to correct their behavior because they are not strong enough to upset the child. Because of the self, may be raised by a strict parent in control of conduct. It is against the method of parenting that they have been unconsciously. The problem is falling into the ball, which is not resolved the thought and the indulgent behavior until the children grown up, that will be a problem in the future. In addition, the father or mother may be against the other, and reject the role of parent who is responsible for solving problems of children (Chansawang, 2012).

When the child was raised indulge, no responsibility, and can get whatever they want easily, which is more common today. This will result when the children grow up and develop to be of what is called the sense of entitlement. The word entitlement in Thai means the righteousness. The righteousness refers to the persons who have feeling or idea that they I have the right to have, to do, or to get things that they want. “Someone else must give me. I have the right to be (Trangkasombat, 2015). But, I do not see the value of what others do. Do not feel thankful for the sacrifice of others, especially patrons such as parents, which is called “Childhood Entitlement Syndrome”. Main characteristic are: lack of self-responsibility, always expect other people to solve problems, blame others for the problem, cannot accept a sequel from their actions, such as the schools release a grade to a student (Twenge & Campbel, 2009). And, the social promotion that students expect to be able to go through the various stages easily without effort, and when they are upset, one can express themselves in violent behavior. For example, shooting or injuring the other people until they were trauma which is the news on television or newspaper. Violence from adolescence occurs with one reason is that the children. Violence from adolescence occurs with one reason is that the children receive excessive pamper. When children want something and receive everything as they want, they become competent. As a result, children enter rapidly to the world of violence.
Terminologies and words used to describe “Entitlement Syndrome”

The authors had reviewed the concepts used for “entitlement syndrome” and had terms or words as the definitions as follows:

1) **Spoiled brat** is a term used to refer to Entitlement Syndrome (ES). The Americans used this word to call the children who receive excessive pamper that made the children have unacceptable behaviors for the other people. The habits of the entitlement childhood includes: wayward, upset, rampant, anger, moody, scream, flex at the ground, throwing things, pinch, kick, and hit their mothers. The spoiled brat relationship with others is not based on equality, because “other people in this world live for me, serve me, sacrifice for me.” Let me reach the goal. Let me have what I want. When I get, the others are no longer meaningful (Trangkasombat, 2015).

2) **Narcissistic** is another term used for ES. Americans use this term to refer to the children who are narcissistic. When they were small often be selfish, as a part of the development that they worked to meet their own needs and could not understand the needs and the desire of the others. When children are teenagers, they are the central to fighting for independence. Children who think that they, themselves are very important, be a special person. Therefore, they expected that the response will be fulfilled, and good of take care, could not bear to the critique about themselves. In contrast, they needed to get greatly praised. They always fantasize about their success, reputation or beauty. Relationships with others are superficial, do not feel compassion, or not interested in the feelings and needs of others. Sometimes, they may seek personal benefit from the relationships with others, such as exploiting others to achieve their goals. Their self-confidence is often fragile leads them to get depression easily, their behaviors cause problems with relationships with others, and problem in their works (Ronningstam, 2011).

3) **Manipulative** is another term used by ES. The Americans used this term to call the children with bossy behavior. They like to orchestrate the others. They like to order a friend to do it like this, or speak in a way that hurts others, then becoming the children who do not have a friend to play with. Therefore, command or the child mastermind at this age is not very unusual. But we have to determine what any basis affects the behaviors, such as children were always ordered at home, and did not play independently. Parents ordered a lot of directing, many children are accustomed to and followed by the order, may order someone else, ordered friends, or ordered the parents back (James, 2012).

4) **Pampered child** is another term used to replace ES. Merriam-Webster dictionary (2011) defines spoiled as excessive pampering, meaning both the need to find something that is not necessary to find someone to care. Parents who pamper children always have interest, pay attention, and do everything for their children in order to make the children happy and
comfortable. These parents will protect their children, which will become child centered. Some parents may let their children do their own thing, spend a lot of money, do not let the baby feel awkward. And, they may feel very difficult to say “no” to the child (Ungar, 2009).

Behavior Childhood Entitlement Syndrome

When the children were raised indulge. They could not behave or control their desires. Whatever they want, they always get. If not, it will be mad. They think they have the right to have, to do, or to get something, lack of self-responsibility, take advantage of others to get what they want. They are not aware of the feelings of others, lack of sympathy, and understanding. They do everything without aware of the feelings others. And at the same time believe that others are jealous (Vidya, 1999). When children grow up, they will behave like this, or do the degradation because, they do not know how to be restrain. This type of children will have a couple and unplanned baby before, a certain age.

Causes of Childhood Entitlement Syndrome

At present, there are a lot of problems with C.E.S in the society (Chansawang online, 2012).

1) The children are satisfied with the feeling of being just a moment that they are spoiled from the parents or those around them.

2) Absorption habit of being spoiled from their close friends.

3) They have feelings that they are outstanding and different.

4) Commitment to overcoming or forcing others.

5) Permissive parents.

6) Failure of parents to change their minds and behaviors.

7) Parents cannot cultivate morality and ethics for their children.

8) Parents are the prototype of the will.

9) The child is selfish. And not willing to sacrifice for others.

10) The child refuses to behave well. Do not focus on morality and ethics and including lack of faith in religion.

Influence of parents on Childhood Entitlement Syndrome

Parents are the closest persons to children. They are more influential to the children than any others. So the personality of the parents that make the child C.E.S is as follows (Trangkasombat, 2015).
1) Guilty: The nature of family life today makes parents feel guilty easily. The parents have to work outside the home or being a single parent. Divorce or separation make parents feel that they do wrong for the children. And often try to refute the feeling ‘lacking’ that they have created in the children’s lives

2) No time for the children: The parents who do not have enough time to spend with the children, they want to have a good time and a happy time with the children. Therefore, the parents would be spoiled the children, and did not discipline the children. In the long run, this way, the time spent together becomes less fun

3) Too tired: Some parents are tired; they worked until late at night. There is not enough power left to maintain the strength to the children.

4) Too sympathy for the children: If the children are frustrated, irritated, uneasy, most parents will jump in to help make everything all right.

5) Service was very spoiled to the brat: Children knew that someone would serve them, help them with whatever they do. No matter what dress to dress or to eat. These children would not do the things by themselves they wait for others to do for them.

6) Think the child is the most wonderful: the parents think that whatever their child do that is very lovely. Even though, the parents knew that what the child did was not appropriate. But the reason is always clear. We may have seen children shouting at their parents. The parents smile because they think it looks cute or it means that the child is a good negotiator.

7) Ever “lacking” in childhood, many parents feel that they lack something in childhood. When they have children, they do not want their children to lack; they are trying to keep this with children, and this always gives too.

8) Successful Families with a good life, it is more risky than a normal family. Many cases occur because children rarely to have the opportunity to face disappointment and difficulty.

9) Want the child to be better than other children, regardless of the ability of the children.

Impact of Childhood Entitlement Syndrome on Children

All parents know that pampering is not a good way. But there are few parents who understand the real consequences. That’s because when the child is small. The parents still do not see any impact on the baby. But in the long run, the effects will gradually clear up and at that time, it is difficult to fix the impact of C.E.S on the children are as follows (Blenda, 2013).
1) **Does not rely on themselves**, the children were fed freely have a high tendency to believe that being alone makes them unhappy. Therefore, their happiness is depend up on being with others.

2) **Irresponsible**, the parents give everything that the children want leads the children to be lacking of the responsibility and drives, lazy and angry. Therefore, they are children who lack emotional maturity, and lack of problem solving skills.

3) **Disobey, disrespect others**, indulged children are always responsive to what they ask for. And, that makes them often try to make others follow up on what they want as well. Often children get too much or being overly protective will not recognize other emotional expressions. In addition, to showing negative behavior the children are naturally responsive to rebellion and resistance.

4) **Low Relationship Skills**, Children who are indoors will feel slow to the needs of others. And, they have the tendency to express temper tantrum, and upset easily.

**Manifested Effects of Childhood Entitlement Syndrome in Adolescence and Adult**

Children who develop C.E.S. will affect adults and adolescences as follows:

1) **Self-centredness**, for example, The children want to have special care needs. They pretend to be busy even though they had finished their work. They may early response when they knew that the people take advantage of them.

2) **Desire for success effortless**, such as egoistic with their own performance, if what they did is correct they will announce immediately.

3) **Exploiting others for one's own interests**. They ignore other people if the thing they have done did not work. They want the people who are not close know about their backgrounds, but pay respect to them as a key person.

4) **Lack of work /organizational disciplines**. They do not respect with the rule, do not have the discipline, come to work late. They were angry at the wrong time and then have problems.

5) **Negative towards others** such as gossip, slander, having negative thoughts to dealing with the past, hurts others unconsciously.

**How to Protect Childhood Entitlement Syndrome**

According to a study from the Web, parents found that their parents give all the things the children want. It does not take into account the future consequences of making a child become self-centered. And what do the children need? In case the baby is in infancy, comforting when crying is not indulging, but it is the care that the child has to get according to age. This will help keep the baby happy and boost confidence as the baby grows. In order to prevent children from
becoming self-centered in the future, parents must recognize their children who may behave as follows (Chansawang, 2012).

1) Feeding the child if parents find that their children refuse food and claim food according to their own needs. Parents must prepare new food they will be satisfied. This show that the child starts showing self-willed behavior. In case of this type of events only 1-2 times, it is not considered children behave self-centered.

2) Fussy crying in the case of 5-6-year-old children behavior shown, such as raising fists, enters to the parent. This behavior is considered to be a passion that will lead to self-will. In the case of children 2-3 years old, such behavior is not considered self-willed behavior.

3) Dependent Parents The parents can see in many events, such as children do not sleep alone, crunching feet when the time to go to school, etc. show that the child begins to behave self-centered.

How to cope and resolve Childhood Entitlement Syndrome

The child who is C.E.S will affect childhood, adolescents and adults. Therefore, it is very important in preventing children from being affected for a long time. How to deal with and fix C.E.S as follows. (Freelance, 2015)

1) Start with the attitude adjustment and Parental actions. In case the baby is self-centered, they receive everything they want. This type of child is often raised by pampering the child too much. There are no definite rules. The parents try to do everything they want to protect crying and screaming. And children learn the influence of the screaming that they will use it as a “killer” at the same time, so it is necessary to change the attitude of raising children. Do not think that if the parents do everything to prevent children crying. The children grow up there will be many people love them. Children need to learn to be in the rules, reduce pampering, increasing the training for children to help themselves. Even if, the children are rampant, do not pay attention but to divert attention to something else. Parents should be a role model to the children. Also try to find opportunities for children to participate in events where parents show sacrifice, patience or self-control.

2) Family environment, parents, grandparents, and siblings are responsible for raising children and teach children the same direction and consistency. Lack of consistency both verbal and nonverbal depends on the mood of the adults, this can affect the behavior of children.

3) Start at the youngest and continuously, as young children have the ability to learn through all senses. The more we can stimulate learning, the more children gain the development of the brain. The ability to learn will begin to slow down when the children are 4 years old, so
teaching children to start at the youngest in order to not behave self-centered so deeply embedded children become children spoil.

4) Daycare / school roles. The school is a social place that has shaped the desirable characteristics of early childhood. So teachers must have the right knowledge in the training children to develop appropriate for children, and have desirable attributes. The school is a social place that has shaped the desirable characteristics of early childhood. So teachers must have the right knowledge in the training children to develop appropriate for children. And have desirable attributes.

5) How to reduce and deal with C.E.S. Teach the balance between right and liberty, with duty and responsibility. Teach the children to think about the mind of others as they think about themselves, may start with do not indulge, reject some behaviors, learn what to do by themselves. Start from the family first, like doing housework; teach to service others such as, parents, brothers and sisters, more and more. The expectations are what everyone needs to focus on there may be a wrong idea to take it to mature. Of course, that is not the adult nature of the society. Children who are overbearing often feel uncomfortable with their own lives. And often cannot cope with their feelings of distress. So parents need to help children learn to give to others people without receive back, sacrifice without selfish, and give importance to others (Chansawang, 2012).

5.1 After a child grows older than two years or beyond a period called “Terrible Two”, the habitual nature of the child should gradually decrease and disappear, but if the child continues to express a habit of overt success. Parents should stop by talking to the child seriously. Describe how your child needs to change behavior. Include your future prospects by comparison, children see different futures of the wayward children. The children are not self-centered.

5.2 Targeted changes in expected behavior from children appropriately by age. It is used as a basis for changing the habit of the child. Parents should not be sensitive or allow the behavior of children's temper tantrums (Temper tantrums) hit the target.

5.3 Give the option to the child to give them the opportunity to make a decision, such as choosing which clothes to wear, food to eat or books to read in order to teach children to understand in which situations where children have the option. And you can choose what children like or in which situation do children need to follow? There are rules or regulations.

5.4 In matters relating to safety or a social norm. This is not something that cannot be compromised. And the children need to follow, such as the seat belt on the car.

5.5 Expect that children will resist to prepare for, Because there is no childish way to comply easily with no resistance. Parents should explain the difference between “necessity” and
“needs”. Parents will encourage their children to receive everything that is necessary. While what children want are in the parents' discretion as well.

5.6 To be a good example for children. Also try to find opportunities for children to participate in events where parents show sacrifice, patience or self-control.

5.7 Do not protect the children too much. By not facilitating the child too much if is not necessary. Parents should let their children learn how to handle some situations manually in order to enhance confidence and problem solving skills with children.

5.8 Teach children to be patient. It's not that everything will be as they want, or not all of the children's requests will be responded immediately. The parents should learn to wait, to protect themselves from anger, and should be trained to wait periodically from time to time.

5.9 Do not overcompensate to the children. Attention and compliments on the children will make the children more interested and appreciative and may be requested. Parents should support their children by giving compliments when they can do something new or something difficult to accomplish.

5.10 Teach children to respect the rights of adults, when the child has received what is needed, such as food or clothing. Before the children get what they want. The children have to learn that the parents have what they need to do. Therefore, children need to respect their parents' rights over what they want. This will help children respect the rights of parents. This will be the beginning of respect for adult rights and other people in general remember that love is different from loving the child altogether. Parents should show love to children with teaching children to be good, have confidence, and the feeling of the people around, or express love through action whether it is embracing the aroma and love.

Summary

C.E.S. is a very important issue in society and has long term effects on children according to the article. Parents and teachers may plan to prevent and cope with C.E.S by providing quality care for children as they are the future of the nation.

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