

# The Values Adopted by Parents for the Effective Education of Children

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**Abstract:** *This study contributes to determining the relationship between the human values by which today's parents are guided and the level of parental competence demonstrated by them. At the same time, the link between the number of children of the parent and the empathy shown by him, respectively the ability to ensure an effective education, is analyzed. The human values measured in the study are hedonism, self-guidance and goodwill. In total, the answers collected from 610 respondents who fulfill the status of parents (87% of the female gender and 13% of the male gender) with ages from under 20 years (1%) to over 50 years (19%) were analyzed.*

*The results indicate that as parents manage to find a balance between their own pleasures and the satisfaction of the children's needs, the level of parental competence increases as a result of the well-being felt by the parent ( $r = 0.19, p < .001$ ). Parents who manage to approach everyday problems creatively, creativity being a central element of the human value of self-guidance, demonstrated a higher level of parental competence ( $r = 0.17, p < .001$ ), while honesty as a sub-value of human value goodwill was also associated with parental competence ( $r = 0.18, p < .001$ ). At the same time, the results indicate that the level of empathy of the parent does not increase progressively with the number of his children, and parental skills can be proven independently of the number of children of the parent.*

**Keywords:** *Human values; hedonism; self-guidance; benevolence; empathy.*

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## Introduction

The effective education of the child has been transposed among parents in the form of the concept of parental competence. Parental competence has been defined as a parent's specific style of fulfilling parental responsibilities (Johnson et al., 2014), determining adaptation to different contexts, improving family life, developing the parent's confidence in his child care skills, such as and achieving balance in difficult situations (Mohammadi et al., 2020). Miller, Wanless and Weissberg (2018) argued that the competent parent is the one who possesses social and emotional skills that they later integrate into the parenting practices used.

John Gottman (1998) stated that the secret of successful parenting is primarily based on feelings of love and affection towards the child, demonstrated by understanding and empathy towards him. In the context of parental competence, the field of human values by which parents are guided was addressed, considering three types of values according to the author Schwartz (2012): self-guidance which refers to independent action and thinking, choice, creation, exploration; hedonism signifies the desire of the individual to satisfy his pleasures, to indulge himself and to enjoy life, and in the context of parental competence this value does not interfere with the needs of the child; goodwill is characteristic of people who contribute to the well-being of those with whom they are in permanent interaction.

For a better understanding of the choices that individuals make in various situations, human values are the main tools that mediate this process (Leite et al., 2021) and that motivate people's behavior (Gimenez & Tamajon, 2019; Zacharopoulos et al., 2016).

The relationship between parental competence and the human values adopted by parents was also studied through the empathy that parents showed in terms of child education. Parents' empathy was analyzed from the perspective of the dimensions of emotional intelligence, intelligence that helps parents improve their empathic capacity (Neacșu, 2018).

Parental empathy, a construct of emotional intelligence from Goleman's perspective, can be developed in moments when parents choose to: ask the child questions about how he is feeling, develop the ability to listen to get the child to fully express himself, appreciate the differences between them, as parents and their own child, empathizing and managing not to feel guilt for the cause of a child's problem or for the solution adopted by it (Bharwaney, 2020).

Based on the previously mentioned aspects of the specialized literature, this research aims to identify the relationship between parental

competence and the human values of parents, as well as to establish how the number of children of the respondents influences the level of empathy and parental competence.

Based on the purpose of the research and the gaps identified in the specialized literature, the following research hypotheses were established:

Research hypothesis 1 (H1): Parents' human values - hedonism, self-guidance and benevolence - are associated with the level of parental competence.

Research hypothesis 2 (H2): As the parent has more children, the relationship between empathy and parental competence intensifies.

Research hypothesis 3 (H3): As the adult is the parent of more children, the level of empathy of the parent increases.

Research hypothesis 4 (H4): The effective education of the child depends on the number of children of the parent.

## Literature Review

Research in the field of family education is carried out around two main perspectives: the first targeting the general characteristics of parents represented by the concept of parenting styles, and the second perspective refers to parenting practices presented under the concept of parental competence (Reparaz et al., 2021). This type of competence intervenes in the critical situations that the parent encounters in the experience with his child (Montgomery, 2019), but also when the parent does not use the child's behavior to fulfill his own needs but on the contrary, their fulfillment is achieved through productive efforts, independent, to cause the parent to experience self-acceptance (Gordon, 2000).

In general terms, emotional intelligence represents a person's ability to manage both their own emotions and those of those around them (Bru-Luna et al., 2021). It is a type of intelligence that develops throughout life as a result of the experiences to which the individual is exposed (Ain et al., 2021; Reddy, 2021), determining the level of confidence of the person in himself as well as the manner in which he copes everyday challenges (Jacobson, 2021). This type of intelligence contributes significantly to psychological well-being (Pauletto et al., 2021).

Human values motivate people to act in order to achieve their proposed goals and are embodied in principles that guide their lives. They are responsible for people's preferences and behavior adopted by them in different situations over time, being different from their traits, motives, goals or attitudes (Sagiv et al., 2017).

When an individual attaches great importance to a value they will increasingly engage in behaviors expressive of that value (Lee et al., 2021).

In this research, the importance of human values that consider hedonism, self-guidance and benevolence is emphasized.

The contribution of this article was derived from the gaps in the specialized and scientific literature specific to the field of parenting. The importance of emotional intelligence on parental competence is known, but the role of the empathic dimension of this intelligence on the level of parental competence has not been analyzed. At the same time, in this research, the way in which the number of children of the parents influences their level of empathy, as well as the level of parental competence, is analyzed.

Taking into account the previously mentioned, it was found that the necessity of this research was represented by the usefulness of the manifestation of emotions in the parenting process, but also by the guidance in this process according to the human values of the parents.

## **Methodology**

This research is part of the quantitative paradigm, based on objectivism, while pursuing a precise analysis of the data collected from the respondents.

The research purpose is to identify the relationship between parental competence and the human values of parents, as well as to establish how the number of children of the respondents influences the level of empathy and parental competence.

## **Participants**

The research sample consisted of 610 respondents, 530 female, representing 87% of the total number of respondents, and 80 male, representing 13% of the total number of respondents. From the perspective of the age range of the research participants, 6 of them are under 20 years old (1%), 67 respondents are between 21 and 30 years old (11%), 205 respondents are between 31-40 years old (34%). The majority category of respondents from the perspective of age are those who fall between 41-50 years old, numbering 216 (35%), and the last category, representing the age of over 50, includes 116 respondents (19%).

The number of respondents who declared that they have 1 child is equal to the number of respondents who declared that they have between 2 and 3 children, namely 294 respondents, both categories representing 48%

of the total sample. These two categories are followed by the one in which the parents declared that they have more than 3 children, being representative of 22 respondents (4%).

### **Research instruments**

The research method used is the survey based on the questionnaire, a method specific to the quantitative paradigm, and the tools used are represented by a series of questionnaires specific to each variable.

To measure the internal consistency of the instruments used in this research, the Alpha Cronbach coefficient was calculated by means of the reliability analysis.

The level of emotional intelligence and implicit empathy of parents was measured with the instrument ESCQ-45 - Emotional Skills and Competence Questionnaire, Vladimir Taksic, whose Cronbach's Alpha coefficient is  $\alpha = .90$  which indicated a good internal consistency.

The level of parental competence was measured using the tool Parenting Sense of Competence Scale – Gibaud - Wallston & Wandersman, 1978 whose Cronbach's Alpha coefficient is  $\alpha = .77$ , which indicated an acceptable internal consistency.

The human values by which parents are guided were identified with the help of the SVS - Schwartz Value Survey instrument, Shalom Schwartz, 1992 whose Cronbach's Alpha coefficient is  $\alpha = .86$ , which indicated an acceptable internal consistency.

### **Procedures**

The implementation of the research was carried out with the receipt of the research approval from the Ethics and Academic Integrity Commission of the University of Bucharest. Data collection was carried out between March 2022 and May 10, 2022, and the research tool was available on the Google Forms platform, with respondents having the opportunity to access it via a link. The sampling strategies used were convenience and snowball sampling.

### **Data analysis**

The variables of the research were represented by parental competence, parents' empathy, human values - hedonism, self-guidance, benevolence and the number of children of the parents. The data specific to each variable were collected in the Google forms platform, processed in an Excel database and later transferred to the Jamovi statistical program. Data

analysis involves a series of statistical operations. Along with descriptive statistics used to measure specific parameters, the following operations were used: correlation analysis, distribution analysis, moderation analysis.

## Results

### 1. Descriptive statistics

The means, standard deviations, standard error, minimum, maximum, skewness, kurtosis for each variable are presented in the table 1. The value of skewness varies between -1.52 and 0.39, and the value of kurtosis varies between -0.82 and 3.06. Both ranges of values were statistically accepted. Therefore, after the normality of the research variables was analyzed, all skewness and kurtosis values were within an acceptable range.

Table 1: Descriptive analysis of research variables

	Empathy	Parental competence	Hedonism	Self guidance	Benevolence	Number of children
N	610	610	610	610	610	610
Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mean	57.78	72.58	17.72	30.56	31.25	1.55
Median	59.00	71.00	18.00	32.00	32.00	2.00
Standard deviation	7.15	10.07	2.93	4.44	3.63	0.57
Minimum	35.00	43	3	8	14	1
Maximum	75.00	100	21	35	35	3
Skewness	-0.38	0.20	-1.13	-1.52	-1.46	0.39
Std. error skewness	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Kurtosis	0.21	-0.33	1.70	3.06	2.99	-0.82
Std. error kurtosis	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20

Source: Author's own conception

**2. Correlational analysis between the parental competence variable and human values: hedonism, self-guidance, benevolence**

In order to test the hypothesis regarding the relationship between parents' human values and the level of parental competence, the correlation analysis was performed between the values of the human value variable (hedonism, self-guidance, benevolence) and the scores obtained for parental competence.

Hedonism is defined by pleasure (gratification of desires), enjoyment of life, and self-indulgence. Following the correlation between this variable and the level of parental competence, a positive and statistically significant association was found between the level of parental competence and the human value that takes into account the joy shown towards life ( $r = 0.19, p < .001$ ) (Table 2). Thus, as parents relate to life with joy and are guided by this human value, the level of parental competence increases due to the well-being of the parent.

Table 2: Correlational analysis between the parental competence variable and the hedonism variable

		Parental competence score	1. Pleasure (Satisfaction of Desires)	2. The joy of life	3. Self indulgence (by doing enjoyable things/activities)
Parental competence score	Pearson's r	—			
	p-value	—			
1. Pleasure (Satisfaction of Desires)	Pearson's r	0.06	—		
	p-value	0.156	—		
2. The joy of life	Pearson's r	0.19	0.50	—	
	p-value	< .001	< .001	—	
3. Self indulgence (by doing enjoyable things/activities)	Pearson's r	0.06	0.43	0.41	—
	p-value	0.166	< .001	< .001	—

Source: Author's own conception

Self-guidance is defined by freedom, creativity, independence, choosing one's own goals, curiosity. Following the correlation between this variable and the level of parental competence, a positive and statistically significant association was found between the level of parental competence

and the human value that considers creativity ( $r = 0.17, p < .001$ ) (Table 3). Therefore, as parents consider the value that refers to the manifestation of creativity in everyday life to be important, the level of parental competence increases. It is estimated that this association exists due to the fact that creative parents manage to find diverse, appropriate, original solutions in different contexts of raising and educating the child.

Table 3: Correlational analysis between the parental competence variable and the self-guidance variable

		Parental competence score	4. Freedom (freedom of action and thought)	5. Creativity (uniqueness, imagination)	6. Independence (self-sufficiency)	7. Choosing your own goals (selecting your own goals)	8. Curiosity (interested in everything, interested in exploring)
Parental competence score	Pearson's r	—					
	p-value	—					
4. Freedom (freedom of action and thought)	Pearson's r	0.12	—				
	p-value	0.004	—				
5. Creativity (uniqueness, imagination)	Pearson's r	0.17	0.46	—			
	p-value	< .001	< .001	—			
6. Independence (self-sufficiency)	Pearson's r	0.08	0.51	0.46	—		
	p-value	0.057	< .001	< .001	—		

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	Parental competence score	4. Freedom (freedom of action and thought)	5. Creativity (uniqueness, imagination)	6. Independence (self-sufficiency)	7. Choosing your own goals (selecting your own goals)	8. Curiosity (interested in everything, interested in exploring)
7. Choosing your own goals (selecting your own goals)	Pearson's r	0.12	0.50	0.46	0.58	—
	p-value	0.003	< .001	< .001	< .001	—
8. Curiosity (interested in everything, interested in exploring)	Pearson's r	0.15	0.47	0.47	0.38	0.48
	p-value	< .001	< .001	< .001	< .001	< .001

Source: Author's own conception

Benevolence is defined by tolerance of different ideas/beliefs, honesty, helping, responsibility, forgiveness. Following the correlation between this variable and the level of parental competence, a positive and statistically significant association was found between the level of parental competence and the human value that considers honesty ( $r = 0.18, p < .001$ ) (Table 4). Therefore, as parents are guided by the value of honesty, the level of parental competence increases. This is because honest parents are realistic about their parenting skills, increasing the chances that they can be improved when needed.

Tabel 4: Correlational analysis between the parental competence variable and the benevolence variable

		Parental competence score	9. Tolerance of different ideas/beliefs	10. Honesty (authenticity, sincerity)	11. Giving aid to the welfare of others	12. Responsibility	13. Forgiveness (openness to forgive others)
Parental competence score	Pearson's r	—					
	p-value	—					
9. Tolerance of different ideas/beliefs	Pearson's r	0.08	—				
	p-value	0.040	—				
10. Honesty (authenticity, sincerity)	Pearson's r	0.18	0.30	—			
	p-value	< .001	< .001	—			
11. Giving aid to the welfare of others	Pearson's r	0.12	0.38	0.40	—		
	p-value	0.003	< .001	< .001	—		
12. Responsibility	Pearson's r	0.09	0.25	0.58	0.35	—	
	p-value	0.022	< .001	< .001	< .001	—	

		Parental competence score	9. Tolerance of different ideas/beliefs	10. Honesty (authenticity, sincerity)	11. Giving aid to the welfare of others	12. Responsibility	13. Forgiveness (openness to forgive others)
13. Forgiveness (openness to forgive others)	Pearson's r	0.12	0.32	0.41	0.51	0.39	—
	P-value	0.002	< .001	< .001	< .001	< .001	—

Source: Author's own conception

Following the correlational analyzes carried out, it was found that the hypothesis according to which "*The human values of parents - hedonism, self-guidance and benevolence - are associated with the level of parental competence*" was supported by the data, but in order to obtain associations with a high level of statistical significance, it is recommended the full use of the specific instrument for measuring the level of parents' human values.

### ***3. Moderation analysis of parental number of children on the effect of parental empathy on parenting competence***

To test the hypothesis that as the parent has more children, the relationship between empathy and parenting competence intensifies, it was studied how the number of children of the parent moderates the effect of the parent's empathy on the level of parenting competence. In order to test this hypothesis, a multiple regression analysis was performed.

Individually, the level of parental empathy predicts the level of parenting competence  $p < .001$ ,  $d = 0.44$ , 95% CI [0.33, 0.55], but the number of children predicts the relationship between parental empathy and the level of parental competence, statistically insignificant  $p = 0.56$ ,  $p > .05$ ,  $d = 0.39$ , 95% CI [-0.95, 1.73]. The results indicate that despite the fact that the number of children is a statistically insignificant predictor, it statistically significantly moderates the relationship between parental empathy and the level of parental competence  $p = 0.04$ ,  $p < .05$ ,  $d = 0.20$ , 95% CI [0.00, 0.39] (Table 5).

Table 5: Estimated values of number of children moderating the effect of parental empathy on parenting competence

	Estimate	SE	95% Confidence Interval		Z	p
			Lower	Upper		
Empathy	0.44	0.05	0.33	0.55	8.08	< .001
Number of children	0.39	0.68	-0.95	1.73	0.57	0.568
Empathy * Number of children	0.20	0.10	0.00	0.39	1.99	0.046

Source: Author's own conception

The simple slope analysis reveals that in the case of parents with an average number of children, the level of parental empathy predicts the level of parental competence  $p < .001$ ,  $d = 0.44$ , 95% CI [0.33, 0.55]. In the case of parents with a small number of children, the level of empathy of the parent predicts the level of parental competence  $p < .001$ ,  $d = 0.33$ , 95% CI [0.17, 0.48], and in the case of parents with a large number of children, further the level of empathy of the parent predicts the level of parental competence  $p < .001$ ,  $d = 0.55$ , 95% CI [0.40, 0.70] (Table 6).

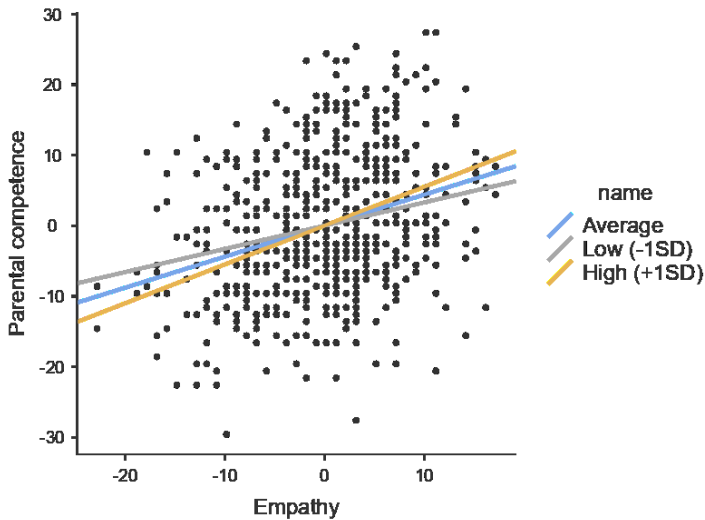
Table 6: Estimated values of number of children moderating the effect of parental empathy on parenting competence

	Estimate	SE	95% Confidence Interval		Z	p
			Lower	Upper		
Average	0.44	0.05	0.33	0.55	8.06	< .001
Low (-1SD)	0.33	0.08	0.17	0.48	4.17	< .001
High (+1SD)	0.55	0.08	0.40	0.70	7.15	< .001

Note. shows the effect of the predictor (Empathy) on the dependent variable (Parental competence) at different levels of the moderator (Number of children)

Source: Author's own conception

Graph 1: Moderation of the effect of parents' empathy on parenting competence by the variable number of children



Source: Author's own conception

The results indicated that regardless of the number of children of the parent, it becomes a moderator of the effect that the parent's empathy has on the level of parental competence, thus parental competence was elevated under the effect of empathy both in the case of parents with only one child and in the case of parents with several children. Based on these results, the hypothesis that *”The relationship between empathy and parenting competence increases as the parent has more children”* is not supported by the data. There is a possibility that these results are due to the fact that the existence of only one child is enough for the parent to develop his empathic side with effects on the level of parental competence and subsequently the specific parental behaviors are also transferred in the relationship with the other children in the situation of parents who have more than one child.

#### ***4. Distribution analysis of parents' level of empathy according to the number of children***

In order to test the hypothesis that as the adult is the parent of several children, the level of empathy of the parent increases, the level of empathy of the parent was identified based on the scores obtained by the respondents to the items of the questionnaire that measure the level of emotional intelligence. The mean score for the empathic dimension of

emotional intelligence is 57.78 points (SD = 7.15). Based on the average value of the scores, a new categorical variable was introduced, Empathy\_LH, L (low) means the low level of empathy, and H (high) means the high level of the parent's empathy. All scores below the mean value were replaced by the number 1, 1 representing the group of respondents with a low level of empathy, while all scores above the mean value were replaced by the number 2, 2 representing the group of respondents with a high level of empathy.

Starting from the analysis of the distribution of the level of empathy of the parent according to the number of children, it is concluded that the adult does not need to be the parent of several children in order to develop an empathic attitude towards them. It can be seen in the table 7 that 175 respondents who are parents of a single child demonstrate a high level of empathy and the same level is also demonstrated by respondents who are parents of 2-3 children, they are 156 in number. Considering these results showed that the hypothesis that *"As the adult is the parent of more children the level of empathy of the parent increases"* is not supported by the data. This fact demonstrated that the empathic attitude of the parent towards his child can develop regardless of the number of his children, the more important being the awareness on the part of the adult of the parental status he holds other than the specific responsibilities.

Table 7: Distribution analysis of parents' level of empathy according to the number of children

Empathy_LH	Number of children		
	1 child	2-3 children	More than 3 children
1 (Low empathy)	119	138	9
2 (High empathy)	175	156	13

Source: Author's own conception

### ***5. Distribution analysis of the level of parental competence according to the number of children***

To test this hypothesis, the level of parental competence operationalized through the effective education of the child by his parent was identified. The level of parental competence was established based on the scores obtained by the respondents on the items of the questionnaire that measure this competence. The average score is 72.58 points (SD = 10.07). Based on this average, a new categorical variable was introduced, Parental competence\_LH, L (low) means the low level of parental

competence, and H (high) means the high level of parental competence. All scores below the mean value were replaced by the number 1, 1 representing the group of respondents with a low level of parental competence, while all scores above the mean value were replaced by the number 2, 2 representing the group of respondents with a high level of parental competence.

Starting from the analysis of the distribution of the level of parental competence according to the number of children, it is concluded that parents with only one child, but also those with 2-3 children and more than 3 children, demonstrated a high level of parental competence. It can be seen in the table 8 that the high level of parental competence was also demonstrated in the case of parents with 1 child (139 parents), but also in the case of parents with 2-3 children (126 parents). The big difference between parents with several children and the other two categories of parents from the perspective of the level of parental competence is caused by the fact that the research sample consisted predominantly of parents with 1 child, respectively with 2-3 children. Therefore, the hypothesis according to which the effective education of the child depends on the number of children of the parent is not supported by the data. This fact proves that it is necessary for the parent to have only one child in order to demonstrate parenting skills and to identify the correct and useful practices for educating his child.

Table 8: Distribution analysis of the level of parental competence according to the number of children

Parental competence_LH	Number of children		
	1 child	2-3 children	More than 3 children
1 (Low parental competence)	155	168	12
2 (High parental competence)	139	126	10

Source: Author's own conception

### Limits and discussions

The purpose of this research is to provide scientific information regarding the field of parenting, which will later be extrapolated into the parenting practices of today's parents. The collected data support a number of seven hypotheses tested by means of various statistical operations: correlation analysis, distribution analysis, respectively moderation analysis.

Through the testing of these hypotheses, the role of human values on the relationship between parents' empathy and the level of parental

competence is demonstrated, as well as the role of the number of children on the level of parents' empathy, respectively on their ability to achieve an effective education. Table 9 presents a summary of the hypotheses tested. The variable codes are as follows: PC – Parental competence, H – Hedonism, SG – Self guidance, B – Benevolence, PE – Parental empathy, No. Child. – Number of Children, LE – Low Empathy, HE – High Empathy, LPC – Low Parental Competence, HPC – High Parental Competence.

Table 9: Hypothesis testing summary

Code	Hypothesis short description	p-value	Result
H1	PC → H, SG, B	< .001	Supported
H2	Nr. Child. → PE + PC	< .001	Not supported
H3	Nr. Child. → PE	119 parents (1 child) – LE 138 parents (2-3 children) – LE 175 parents (1 child) – HE 156 parents (2-3 children) - HE 155 parents (1 child) – LPC	Not supported
H4	Nr. Child → PC	168 parents (2-3 children) – LPC 139 parents (1 child) – HPC 126 parents (2-3 children) - HPC	Not supported

Source: Author's own conception

In accordance with the hypotheses tested in this research, a series of aspects related to the variables of the study are highlighted: parents' empathy, parental competence, human values: hedonism, self-guidance, goodwill and number of children, thus contributing to the field of parenting.

The results obtained can be extrapolated into everyday parenting practices through training programs to which parents have access or through specialized literature. Considering the profile of the competent parent based on self-awareness, management of one's own emotions, social awareness, relational skills and responsibility in decision-making (Miller et al., 2018) the

importance of parenting training in terms of the parenting process, such as and the need to adopt an empathic attitude as a dimension of emotional intelligence (Goleman, 2011). Along with parental competence and parental empathy, the concept of human values is introduced, which according to the authors Schwartz and Bilsky (1987) are representations of three universal requirements, which refer to: biological needs, interaction requirements for interpersonal coordination and societal requirements for well-being and group survival.

The limit of the study is represented by a low level of heterogeneity, the majority of respondents being female. Because of this fact, hypotheses regarding the role of gender as a mediator or moderator of the relationship between parents' empathy and parental competence could not be tested. In the future, this problem could be solved by choosing a more efficient sampling strategy, which would contribute to the collection of data from more male respondents.

## **Conclusions**

The results obtained in this research are concluded in the form of the following aspects:

The human value hedonism is defined by pleasure (satisfaction of desires), enjoyment of life and self-indulgence. The description of this value requires the mention that parents who are guided by this value do not pay less attention to the needs and pleasures of the children, but manage to achieve a balance between their own needs and those of the children. It was found that as parents internalized this value, parenting competence also developed. It is possible that this association is precisely due to the previously mentioned balance.

The human value of self-guidance defined by freedom, creativity, independence, choosing one's own goals, curiosity was associated in the case of parents with an increased level of parental competence. This connection may be due to the parents' freedom to pursue desirable objectives in the effective education of the child, completed at his own pace of development.

The human value of goodwill represented by tolerance towards different ideas/beliefs, honesty, giving help, responsibility, forgiveness is associated in the field of parenting with an increased level of parental competence, a fact due to the open, flexible attitude shown by parents who are guided by this value .

Parents' number of children is not a moderator of the effect of empathy on parenting competence as they have more children, but is a moderator regardless of parents' number of children. In this case the

hypothesis that as the parent has more children the relationship between empathy and parenting competence intensifies is not supported by the data.

It is concluded that the level of empathy, respectively the level of parental competence can be high in the case of parents with one child, but also in the case of those with two or more children, therefore the hypotheses according to which as the adult is the parent of several children increases that a parent's level of empathy and effective child rearing depends on the number of children the parent has are not supported by the data.

Based on the results obtained, the importance of human values on the parenting process is noted, thus encouraging a continuous scientific deepening of the field of parenting in order to provide an effective education.

### Author Contributions

Both authors contributed equally to the work. Conceptualization, A.Ș., and G.,P.; methodology, A. Ș., and G., P.; validation, A. Ș., and G.,P.; supervision, G.P.; writing – original draft preparation A. Ș., and G.,P.; writing – review and editing, A. Ș. and G.P. Both authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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**Informed Consent Statement:** The research's participants were informed about the publication of the answers provided by them, obtaining informed consent. Participants were assured of the confidentiality of the data provided by encoding them.

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