





Novos Cadernos NAEA

v. 29, n. 1 • jan-abr. 2026 • ISSN 1516-6481/2179-7536




# PARENTING STYLES AND GENERATIONAL SUCCESSION: PERSPECTIVES OF POTENTIAL SUCCESSORS IN RURAL ENVIRONMENTS



## ESTILOS PARENTAIS E SUCESSÃO GERACIONAL: PERSPECTIVAS DOS POTENCIAIS SUCESSORES EM AMBIENTES RURAIS

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## **ABSTRACT**

Generational succession is a crucial process in family-owned rural businesses, which involves the transfer of managerial and operational control, as well as physical and intangible assets, such as managerial skills and specialized knowledge. This study aimed to analyze potential successors' perceptions of parental styles. The sample consisted of 252 respondents from Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, who answered a questionnaire regarding parental behavior in terms of responsiveness and demandingness. The combination of scores obtained in these dimensions was used to determine parental styles. The results indicate that most respondents perceive their parents as authoritative (40.08%) and indulgent (36.90%), with high levels of responsiveness predominating, which are associated with higher levels of autonomy and self-confidence in their children. The findings suggest that parental styles can influence children's aspirations and expectations, thereby impacting generational succession decisions and processes.

**Keywords:** authoritarian; autonomy; gender; parent-child relations.

## **RESUMO**

A sucessão geracional é um processo crucial nas propriedades familiares rurais, envolvendo a transferência do controle gerencial e operacional, bem como dos ativos físicos e intangíveis, como habilidades gerenciais e conhecimentos específicos. O objetivo deste estudo foi analisar a percepção que os potenciais sucessores possuem sobre os estilos parentais de seus pais. Os dados apresentados contemplam 252 respondentes do estado do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, que responderam a um questionário referente a frequência com que os pais manifestam comportamentos em relação a Responsividade e Exigência. A combinação dos escores obtidos nestas dimensões foram utilizadas para determinar os estilos parentais. Constatou-se que a maioria dos respondentes percebe seus pais como autoritativos (40,08%) e indulgentes (36,90%) nos quais predomina elevados níveis de responsividade e estão relacionados com maiores índices de autonomia e autoconfiança dos filhos. A partir dos resultados evidencia-se que os estilos parentais são importantes na formação das aspirações e expectativas dos filhos, o que pode impactar também, nas decisões e processos que envolvem a sucessão geracional.

**Palavras-chave:** autoritário; autonomia; exigência; responsividade.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This study examined the perceptions of potential successors in rural family businesses regarding their parents' parenting styles and explored how these perceptions may contribute to a deeper understanding of the generational succession process on family farms. In this context, succession constitutes a crucial process involving the transfer of managerial and operational control, as well as physical and intangible assets, such as managerial skills and specialized knowledge (Chiswell, 2018; Shahzad; Abubakr; Fischer, 2021). Expanding on this perspective, Abdala, Binotto and Borges (2021) conceptualize generational succession as a social construct that also encompasses the preparation of potential successors to assume the management of family property.

This research problem arises from the complexity of the generational succession process (Wheeler *et al.*, 2012), which has been explored by several researchers under different approaches. Factors influencing generational succession, such as family, structural, and emotional aspects, have been highlighted in the literature (Matte *et al.*, 2019; Breitenbach; Dallagnol; Troian, 2023). Despite these contributions (Bertoni; Cavicchioli, 2016; Rodriguez Lizano; Montero-Vega; Sibelet, 2020), there remains a gap in studies that consider the psychological factors inherent in generational succession on farms (Rodriguez Lizano; Montero-Vega; Sibelet, 2020).

Therefore, the research problem that motivated this research lies in the existing theoretical gap regarding the influence of parenting styles on generational succession in rural properties. Although the literature extensively addresses generational succession and the various factors that influence it, there is a scarcity of studies that specifically examine psychological factors, such as parenting styles, in this context.

The relevance of this analysis is evident, given that interpersonal relationships are essential in family businesses, and the lack of dialogue between parents and potential successors can negatively affect succession (Conway *et al.*, 2017; Nuthall; Old, 2017; Pitts *et al.*, 2009). Parenting plays an important role in shaping the next generation and their potential contribution to the family enterprise (Eddleston; Botero, 2021; Shanine *et al.*, 2023). Studies indicate that differing interests and conflicting expectations between parents and children are often associated with negative succession outcomes (Ingram; Kirwan, 2011; Joosse; Grubbström, 2017; Suess-Reyes; Fuetsch, 2016).

In addition to these aspects, career choices are strongly influenced by the social context in which individuals are embedded. According to Bardagi (2002), two factors stand out in career development: gender differences and socioeconomic status. In this sense, perceptions of parenting styles cannot be dissociated from broader social structures, including gender relations and inequalities characteristic of rural contexts. As highlighted by Breitenbach and Corazza (2020), women are often overlooked and receive less parental encouragement regarding generational succession.

A theoretical approach that can contribute to understanding these issues is that of parenting styles, which is characterized by the relationship between parents and children (Darling; Steinberg, 2007). Developed by Diana Baumrind in the 1960s, this approach remains an important reference for research (Power, 2013; Miguel; Valentim; Carugati, 2009). Studies such as those by Shanine *et al.* (2023) and Eddleston and Botero (2021) highlight the significant impact of parenting styles on the psychological functioning of successors and their willingness to take over family businesses. Parker (2016) points out that parental business strategies can enhance the attractiveness of business continuity for the next generation, thereby improving the financial performance and longevity of family businesses.

Although these factors are important, there is a notable lack of studies analyzing generational succession in rural settings from the perspective of parenting styles. The studies most closely related to this theme were conducted by Becot *et al.* (2021) and Rudolphi *et al.* (2021) in the United States. These studies focused on the association between parenting styles and child injuries in agricultural work but did not directly address generational succession.

In view of this theoretical gap, this study proposes to investigate potential successors' perceptions of their parents' parenting styles and how these perceptions may contribute to understanding the succession process in rural properties. The study is guided by the following research questions: What are potential successors' perceptions of their parents' parenting styles? How may these perceptions contribute to understanding generational succession in rural properties? The aim of this study is to analyze these perceptions and their implications for generational succession in rural properties.

## 2 THE PARENTING STYLE APPROACH

Parenting styles refer to the attitudes that shape parent–child relationships (Darling; Steinberg, 2007). Among the theoretical frameworks used to examine this construct, Baumrind's typology (1966) is one of the most widely adopted in both theoretical and empirical research. Initially, Baumrind developed a typology in which she defined three main parenting styles: authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive.

Conceptually, authoritarian parents exhibit high levels of control over their children and are characterized as inflexible, rigid, and unaffectionate (Baumrind, 1971, 1991). In contrast, permissive parents are characterized by high levels of affection and low levels of control (Baumrind, 1971, 1991). In turn, authoritative parents are defined by Baumrind (1971, 1991) as those who encourage dialogue and autonomy while maintaining firm control and establishing clear rules.

Maccoby and Martin (1983) subsequently restructured this typology using the dimensions of demandingness and responsiveness, dividing the permissive style into indulgent and neglectful. Demandingness is understood as parents' attitudes aimed at controlling their children's behavior through the imposition of limits and rules. Responsiveness refers to affectionate and understanding attitudes, emotional support, and effective communication between parents and children, facilitating the development of children's autonomy (Costa; Teixeira; Gomes, 2000). Based on this new classification, four parenting styles have been identified and systematized: authoritarian, authoritative, indulgent and neglectful.

In summary, parenting styles are categories that describe patterns of parental behavior in relation to demandingness and responsiveness. Authoritarian parents are high in demandingness and low in responsiveness; authoritative parents are high in both dimensions; indulgent parents are low in demandingness and high in responsiveness; and neglectful parents are low in both dimensions (Baumrind, 1971, 1991; Costa; Teixeira; Gomes, 2000; Pacheco, 2004; Pacheco; Teixeira; Gomes, 1999; Teixeira; Melo Lopes, 2005).

The literature on parenting styles indicates that family interactions influence children's values, behaviors, and life trajectories (Baumrind, 1966; Maccoby; Martin, 1983; Darling; Steinberg, 2007). In this sense, this

theoretical field offers a promising perspective for understanding potential successors' perceptions of generational succession. Recent studies highlight relevant aspects of this relationship. Liu, Zhu and Wang (2024) demonstrated that children of authoritative parents show a greater intention to take over family businesses, suggesting that more responsive parenting styles may favor the intergenerational transfer of property and rural activities. On the other hand, Mussolino and Calabrò (2014) emphasize that an authoritarian leadership style has a negative effect on successor behavior.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

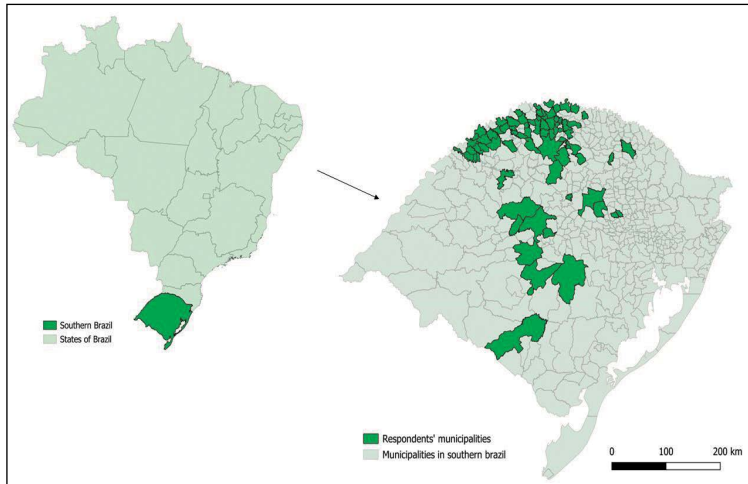
The population investigated in this study consists of potential successors, conceptually defined by Bertolozzi-Caredio *et al.* (2020) as young individuals whom the farmer and their family recognize as potential future successors. This recognition is due, at least in part, to their involvement in farm activities.

Considering the difficulty in accessing potential successors, the population of interest consisted of descendants of farmers aged 18 or older who were involved in farm activities, in accordance with the criteria established by Morais (2017) and the conceptual definition of potential successors proposed by Bertolozzi-Caredio *et al.* (2020).

Participants were recruited using the snowball sampling method. According to LeBlanc *et al.* (2023), this approach facilitates sample expansion through referrals from individuals connected to others who meet the study criteria. The questionnaire was initially disseminated to key actors, such as cooperatives and rural educational institutions, who, given their proximity to the target population, were asked to identify additional participants with similar profiles and characteristics.

At the end of data collection, 252 valid responses were obtained from participants in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Data collection began in July 2023 and ended in October of the same year. Data was collected using an online questionnaire developed in Google Forms, which was distributed via email and social media (Facebook and WhatsApp) to potential successors and key contacts who could facilitate access to respondents. The geographical distribution of respondents is presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Geographical location of respondents



Source: Prepared by the authors, 2025.

The data collection instrument comprised open- and closed-ended questions divided into three sections: (I) questions related to the sociodemographic characteristics of potential successors and their farms; (II) questions related to generational succession; and (III) questions related to parenting styles. It should be noted that the final section, referred to as the “instrument for potential successors’ perceptions of parenting styles,” underwent a process of development, validation, and testing and was deemed reliable, as the Cronbach’s alpha coefficient obtained in the final version of the instrument was 0.723.

The research was approved by the Research Ethics Committee (CAAE No. 70747923.3.0000.5346). To comply with ethical standards for research involving human participants, an Informed Consent Form (ICF) was provided along with the questionnaire, through which participants were fully informed about the study’s purpose, procedures, risks, and benefits and voluntarily agreed to participate. Additionally, basic ethical principles were observed: participants’ privacy was protected; physical, psychological, and social risks were minimized and justified by the potential benefits of the study; and participants’ rights and dignity were fully respected.

To identify potential successors’ perceptions of parenting styles, participants completed a questionnaire using a five-point Likert scale (Appendix A). Respondents were asked to answer the questionnaire with

reference to either their father or mother, considering the parent who, in their perception, played a more significant role in farming-related activities. No distinction was made between respondents who answered with reference to their fathers or mothers.

The combination of scores obtained from the Responsiveness (R) and Demandingness (D) scales was used to determine parenting styles (Table 1). To classify scores as high or low, the sample median was used, following the methodology proposed by Pacheco, Teixeira and Gomes (1999). Specifically, the medians of respondents were compared with the sample median (equal to 3). Scores of 1 and 2 were classified as low, whereas scores of 3, 4, and 5 were considered high.

Table 1 – Combination of Parental Demandingness and Responsiveness Scores

Parenting Styles	Responsiveness	Demandingness
Authoritative	High	High
Authoritarian	Bass	High
Indulgent	High	Bass
Neglectful	Bass	Bass

Source: Prepared by the authors based on the literature, 2024.

The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software was used to analyze the data. Descriptive statistics (measures of central tendency and dispersion), chi-square tests, cross-tabulation analyses to assess associations between categorical variables, and comparisons of means between groups were conducted, considering significance levels of 1%, 5%, and 10%.

## 4 RESULTS

Table 2 presents the characteristics of respondents. The majority are male and have completed high school. Among their siblings, respondents are most often the youngest (42.9%) or the oldest child (33.7%). They have a mean age of 23.3 years and an average of 1.7 siblings.

Table 2 – Characterization of respondents

Variable	N	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	84	33.3
Male	168	66.7
<b>Education</b>		
Elementary School	29	11.1
High School	141	55.95
Higher Education	82	32.54
<b>Among the siblings</b>		
Youngest child	117	46.43
Oldest child	92	36.51
Middle child	27	10.71
Only child	16	6.35
<b>Variable</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>
Age	23.3	6.8
Number of siblings	1.7	1.2

Source: Field research. Prepared by the authors, 2024.

Regarding parenting styles, the study found that the majority of respondents perceive their parents as authoritative (40.08%), followed by indulgent (36.90%), as shown in Table 3.

Table 3 – Definition of parenting styles

Parenting style	Frequency	Percentage
Authoritarian	37	14.68
Authoritative	101	40.08
Indulgent	93	36.90
Neglectful	21	8.33

Source: Field research. Prepared by the author, 2024.

According to the conceptual definition, authoritative parents are characterized by high levels of both demandingness and responsiveness, allowing their children to develop autonomy while maintaining clear limits and rules (Macacula, 2016). Indulgent parents, in turn, exhibit low levels of demandingness and high levels of responsiveness. In other words, they exert less control over their children in relation to limits and rules but display affectionate and understanding attitudes, as well as effective communication, thereby tending to promote the development of their children's autonomy (Costa; Teixeira; Gomes, 2000).

The analysis also allowed for the characterization of potential successors in terms of perceived parenting styles (Table 4). Among the variables analyzed, education level ( $p = 0.001$ ) and age ( $p < 0.001$ ) were statistically significant.

Table 4 – Characterization of potential successors in terms of perceived parenting styles

Variables	Authoritarian N= 37		Authoritative N= 101		Indulgent N= 93		Neglectful N=21	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Female	16	43.20	25	24.80	33	35.50	10	47.6
Male	21	56.80	76	75.20	60	64.50	11	52.4

Chi<sup>2</sup> (sig)= 0.69

Education	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Elementary School	1	2.7	15	14.9	11	11.9	2	9.5
High School	14	37.8	59	58.4	62	66.6	6	28.5
Higher Education	22	59.4	27	26.7	20	21.6	13	61.9

Chi<sup>2</sup> (sig)= 0.001\*\*

Among the siblings	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Oldest child	19	51.35	34	33.66	32	34.41	7	33.33
Youngest child	12	32.43	50	49.5	47	50.54	8	38.1
Middle child	4	10.81	10	9.9	9	9.68	4	19.5
Only child	2	5.41	7	6.93	5	5.38	2	9.52

Chi<sup>2</sup> (sig)= 0.601

Variables	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Age	28.0	7.21	23.13	7.40	20.77	4.85	23.76	5.69

Chi<sup>2</sup> (sig)= 0.000\*\*\*

No. of siblings	1.67	1.10	1.71	1.38	1.73	1.24	1.76	1.33
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Chi<sup>2</sup> (sig)= 0.995

\*\*\*Statistically significant at the 1% level

\*\*Statistically significant at the 5% level

Source: Field research. Prepared by the authors, 2024.

Regarding gender, most male respondents perceive their parents as authoritative (75.20%). In contrast, most female respondents perceive their parents as neglectful (47.6%), followed by authoritarian (43.20%). These results may help explain the lower interest of young women in the succession process, as observed in previous studies conducted in southern

Brazil, such as Breitenbach and Foguesatto (2023), Breitenbach, Dallagnol and Troian (2023), and Matte *et al.* (2019).

These results are consistent with findings reported in the literature, suggesting that daughters tend to have less autonomy than sons, as the authoritative style is characterized by highly responsive parents who foster their children's autonomy. Reichert (2006) and Marcolino and Galastro (2001) discussed the influence of parenting styles on the autonomy and participation of daughters and sons in family decision-making. Reichert (2006) identified that mothers are more present in the educational process, with daughters perceiving them as more intrusive, while sons perceive fathers as more receptive. Perales, González and Martínez (2019) concluded that young women tend to have lower self-esteem, which may be associated with gender discrimination.

Respondents with higher levels of education (complete or incomplete higher education) predominantly perceive their parents as authoritarian (59.4%) and neglectful (61.9%). With respect to birth order, authoritarian parenting is more commonly perceived by the oldest children (51.35%), whereas authoritative (49.5%), indulgent (50.54%), and neglectful (38.1%) parenting styles are more frequently reported by the youngest. Furthermore, respondents who perceive their parents as authoritarian present the highest mean age (28 years). As for the number of siblings, the highest mean was observed among those who perceive their parents as neglectful (1.76 siblings).

From the perspective of children, parents tend to be more demanding of boys than of girls (Rinhel-Silva; Constantini; Rondini, 2012; Sampaio, 2007). Weber *et al.* (2004) highlighted an ingrained cultural perception in which girls are often viewed as more fragile, requiring closer supervision and protection, whereas boys are typically associated with strength and autonomy, reflecting gender patterns that need to be challenged. Furthermore, Murgó, Barros and Sena (2018) found that adolescents with a greater interest in entrepreneurship perceive their parents as more responsive.

Table 5 presents the characteristics of parents according to their parenting styles. As shown, parental education level ( $p = 0.083$ ) and the age of fathers ( $p = 0.021$ ) and mothers ( $p = 0.001$ ) were statistically significant.

Table 5 – Characterization of parents considering parenting styles

Variables	Authoritarian N= 37		Authoritative N= 101		Indulgent N= 93		Neglectful N=21	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Fathers' education</b>								
Elementary School	25	67.57	63	62.38	57	61.29	11	52.38
High School	12	32.43	37	36.63	35	37.63	9	42.86
Higher Education	0	0	1	0.99	1	1.08	1	4.76
<b>Chi<sup>2</sup> (sig)= 0.083*</b>								
<b>Mothers' education</b>								
Elementary School	24	64.9	67	66.4	63	67.7	9	42.9
High School	10	27	27	26.7	22	23.7	6	28.6
Higher Education	3	8.1	7	7	8	8.6	6	28.6
<b>Chi<sup>2</sup> (sig)= 0.442</b>								
Variable	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Fathers' age	59.2	9.32	54.4	10.71	53.4	8.55	55.8	7.00
<b>Chi<sup>2</sup> (sig)= 0.021*</b>								
Mothers' age	56.0	9.36	49.3	11.73	48.5	8.6	52.5	8.73
<b>Chi<sup>2</sup> (sig)= 0.001**</b>								

\*\*Statistically significant at the 5% level

\*Statistically significant at the 10% level

Source: Field research. Prepared by the authors, 2024.

Regardless of parenting style, most fathers have primary-level education, either completed or not, with those classified as authoritarian showing the highest percentage at this level. Regarding maternal education, as observed for fathers, most mothers have attained a primary level of education, whether complete or incomplete, followed by a secondary level of education. However, unlike fathers, a higher proportion of mothers attained higher education (28.6% of mothers perceived as neglectful).

As highlighted in the literature, parental education level is an important variable, with higher levels of education being a strong indicator of an authoritative parenting style (Macucula, 2016). The higher proportion of mothers with higher education perceived as neglectful may be associated with their engagement in activities outside the rural property. Consequently, they may be less involved in their children's socialization, as neglectful parents are characterized by low levels of responsiveness and demandingness. According to Ceconello, Antoni and Koller (2003), neglectful parents show limited involvement in their children's socialization.

Regarding parental age, those perceived as authoritarian had the highest mean age, both among fathers (59.2 years) and mothers (56 years). This pattern may be associated with greater resistance to children's autonomy among older parents, as suggested in the literature.

Table 6 presents the characteristics of rural properties according to parenting styles. Among the variables analyzed, monthly income ( $p = 0.087$ ) and hours devoted to farming ( $p = 0.001$ ) were statistically significant.

Table 6 – Characteristics of rural properties

Variables	Authoritarian N= 37		Authoritative N= 101		Indulgent N= 93		Neglectful N=21	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Property size	58.30	63.04	33.33	46.65	47.58	94.10	62.19	85.06
Chi <sup>2</sup> (sig)= 0.172								
Monthly income	23,233.00	27,732.80	15,884.60	16,125.00	24,782.50	40,297.60	9,210.50	7,679.90
Chi <sup>2</sup> (sig)= 0.087								
Distance to urban areas	11.4	9.1	11.0	6.39928	9.4	6.1	8.7	5.7
Chi <sup>2</sup> (sig)= 0.173								
Years of experience	13.0	6.7	13.4	10.3	12.6	13.4	10.3	6.41
Chi <sup>2</sup> (sig)= 0.730								
Hours devoted to farming	6.6	5.9	7.9	4.4	8.8	4.2	4.6	4.0
Chi <sup>2</sup> (sig)= 0.001**								

\*\*Statistically significant at the 5% level

\*Statistically significant at the 10% level

Source: Field research. Prepared by the author, 2024.

With regard to property size, the largest mean land areas are observed among parents perceived by their children as neglectful (62.19 hectares). In terms of income, the highest mean values are observed among parents perceived by their children as indulgent (BRL 24,782.50).

The greatest mean distance from the property to urban areas is observed among respondents who perceive their parents as authoritarian (11.4 km). In contrast, respondents who perceive their parents as authoritative have the longest experience in farm-related activities (13.4 years). As for hours devoted to farming activities, the highest means are observed among children of indulgent parents (8.8 hours).

The variables related to farm characteristics and engagement in agricultural activities were constructed based on self-reported information provided by the respondents. Property size was measured in hectares, while income refers to average monthly household income expressed in Brazilian reais. Distance to urban areas was calculated based on respondents' estimates of the distance between the farm and the nearest urban center, expressed in kilometers. Experience in agricultural activities corresponds to the number of years the respondent has been involved in farm-related work, and hours devoted to farming activities represent the average number of hours per day spent on such activities.

## 5 DISCUSSIONS

Generational succession on farms is a complex phenomenon involving the transfer of management and ownership across generations. Understanding the factors that influence this process is crucial to ensuring the continuity and sustainability of family farming operations. Among the factors that may influence succession, parenting styles play an important role. Parenting styles refer to patterns of parental behavior and interactions with children. The way parents raise their children directly influences the development of values, skills, and attitudes among potential successors on farms.

Research has highlighted the importance of parenting styles in shaping young people's aspirations and expectations, which may also influence decisions and processes related to succession in family farming. For example, children raised in authoritarian family environments may exhibit lower levels of autonomy and initiative in managing the farm. In contrast, those raised in more democratic family environments tend to develop communication and negotiation skills, thereby facilitating the transition to leadership roles in the succession process.

The assessment of parenting styles from the perspective of potential successors offers valuable insights into the succession process in rural properties. Young people's perceptions of parental approaches can influence their decisions regarding future participation in the family business. For example, individuals who feel valued and encouraged by their parents during their upbringing are more likely to be motivated to continue the family legacy. In contrast, a family environment characterized by conflict and a lack of support may discourage the younger generation from assuming leadership roles in the succession process.

Moreover, children's understanding of parenting styles can help identify potential challenges and areas of conflict in the succession process. Conflicts arising from differences in expectations and values between generations can be mitigated through open communication and mutual recognition of the perspectives of those involved. Several studies have examined the challenges and strategies of succession in family contexts, as highlighted by Freitas and Frezza (2005), Moura *et al.* (2021), Fortes, Danieli and Muller (2014), and Rodrigues (2008). These studies emphasize the importance of professionalization and succession planning in addressing family business succession challenges.

Factors such as the clarity of succession plans, the level of successor preparedness, parenting styles, confidence in the successor's abilities, and family rivalries influence succession intentions, as demonstrated by Daspit *et al.* (2016), Handler (1992, 1994), Miller, Steier and Le Breton-Miller (2003), Sharma, Chrisman and Chua (2003), and Stavrou (1999). Harmonious intergenerational relationships, alignment between career interests and the family business, and a high internal *locus* of control among successors also emerge as facilitators of succession (Venter; Boshoff; Mass, 2005; Dawson *et al.*, 2015; Zellweger; Sieger; Halter, 2011).

Particular attention should be given to the psychological mechanisms underlying the relationship between exposure and succession intentions, as well as to contingencies at the family and individual levels (Gimenez-Jimenez *et al.*, 2021). Affective commitment also plays a central role in children's succession intentions and is partially mediated by the relationship between exposure to the family business and succession intentions (Gimenez-Jimenez *et al.*, 2021).

Exposure to parental role models directly influences children's entrepreneurial behavior (Hoffmann; Junge; Malchow-Møller, 2015). For instance, a predecessor's benevolent and moral paternalistic leadership style positively affects successor behavior, whereas an authoritarian paternalistic leadership style has a negative effect (Mussolino; Calabrò, 2014).

Therefore, a successful succession process is not one that avoids conflict, but one that manages it effectively (Pardo-del-Val, 2009). Family guidance during adolescence plays an important role in shaping young people's professional decisions and influencing their abilities, goals, and career interests (Bacal; Magalhães; Féres-Carneiro, 2014). Such guidance is fundamental in shaping future successors' aspirations and career paths in rural properties.

## FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This study analyzed potential successors' perceptions of their parents' parenting styles and how these findings may contribute to understanding generational succession in rural properties. Nearly half of the respondents perceived their parents as indulgent, followed by authoritative. Together, authoritative and indulgent parenting styles accounted for 76.98% of the sample.

From the perspective of responsiveness and demandingness, indulgent parents are characterized by high responsiveness and low demandingness, whereas authoritative parents exhibit high levels of both dimensions. In other words, both styles are characterized by high levels of responsiveness, which are associated with greater autonomy, self-confidence, and effective communication. These characteristics are more strongly associated with generational succession processes, as highlighted in previous studies.

It is also important to note that parenting styles play a significant role in shaping children's aspirations and expectations, which may influence decisions and processes related to succession in family farming. In this sense, the assessment of parenting styles from the perspective of potential successors offers valuable insights into the succession process on rural properties. Young people's perceptions of parental approaches can influence their decisions regarding future participation in the family business. Furthermore, understanding these perceptions can help identify potential challenges and areas of conflict in the succession process.

Despite the relevance of the findings presented here, further studies are required to examine the perceptions of potential successors in different geographical and socioeconomic contexts. Furthermore, future research should explore the relationship between generational succession and parenting styles.

Finally, a key limitation of this study is its context-specific nature, which may limit the generalizability of the findings, particularly due to the use of the snowball sampling technique. In this regard, further studies conducted in different regions and sociocultural contexts are recommended to test and refine the instrument, as well as to deepen the understanding of the role of psychological factors in intergenerational succession processes.

It is also noteworthy that variables related to the broader social context, such as the occurrence of land conflicts, were not explicitly considered. These factors may influence family dynamics and decisions

regarding intergenerational succession, particularly with respect to the distribution of opportunities between daughters and sons. In this sense, contexts characterized by a higher incidence of conflict may exhibit dynamics different from those observed in this study, thereby opening avenues for future research incorporating such analytical dimensions.

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Submissão: 01/10/2025 • Aprovação: 16/03/2026

Appendix A - Potential Successors' Perceptions of Parenting Styles

Consider the following sentences about your parents...										
1	2	3	4	5						
I disagree (my parents did not act in this way)				I agree (my parents acted precisely in this way)						
<b>When I was a child/adolescent...</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	
E1- They required me to help with farming activities.										
E2- Even if I said I would not help with the activities, they insisted that I do so.										
E3 – They supervised me while I carried out farming activities.										
E4- They required me to participate in farming activities without having a say in decisions.										
E5- They required me to participate in farming activities without receiving a share of the income.										
E6- They made decisions about the farm without consulting me.										
E7- They did not consider my opinion in decisions involving the property.										
E8- They did not allow me to apply my technical knowledge on the farm.										
E9- They required me to study because they considered agricultural work difficult, arduous, and complex.										
E10- I was disrespected if I performed tasks in a way they did not approve of.										
E11- They were always very strict with me regarding work and behavior.										
<b>Regarding your parents, consider the following sentences...</b>										
<b>When I was a child/adolescent...</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	
D1- They spoke openly with me about farming and farm-related issues.										
D2- They spoke openly with me about succession.										
D3- They patiently taught me how to carry out farming activities.										
D4- They allowed me to participate in farming activities and asked for my opinion on farm-related decisions.										

D5- I felt confident taking responsibility for farming activities.					
D6- I felt confident making decisions about farm management.					
D7- They provided financial incentives for me to help with farming activities.					
D8- They encouraged me to become a successor by highlighting the advantages of continuing farming activities.					
D9- They encouraged me to study agriculture.					
D10- They encouraged me to develop an agricultural activity on the farm that interested me.					
D11- They encouraged me to participate in field days, fairs, and other farming-related activities.					

Source: Prepared by the authors (2024).