

AGGRESSION IN RELATION TO FAMILY ENVIRONMENT OF ADOLESCENTS BELONGING TO URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

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Abstract:

A study on aggression in relation to family environment of adolescents belonging to urban and rural areas was conducted on a sample of 800 adolescents (400 urban and 400 rural) studying in 10th class in senior secondary schools of Punjab. Findings revealed significant negative correlation between family environment and aggression. Significant differences were found between adolescents of congenial and average, average and poor, congenial and poor family environments in their aggression. Adolescents of congenial family environment were less aggressive. Urban adolescents were found to be more aggressive than rural adolescents.

Keywords

Aggression, adolescents, 10th class students, Family environment, area wise difference, rural, urban

Introduction

The word 'aggression' means to move with the intent to harm or hurt others. Johnson (1972) a great psychologist, describes aggression in terms of behaviour. Aggression is a disorganised response. It is due to frustration based on emotional disturbance and hostility. It is the manifestation of self-aggressive disposition and use of some kind of force. Arousal from various sources might provoke aggressive reactions to aggression stimulus in the environment. Human attack hurt and sometime kills each other.

Adolescents are often not able to cope with the drastic changes that take place in their physical, psychological health. The psychological problems in this period occur due to disturbed relationship with

parents, teachers, seniors, and peers, scholastic backwardness compared with high expectations, sexual experimentation and substance abuse. All these are often directly or indirectly associated with aggression as well as psychological morbidity.

Family experience plays an important role for the social development of the students. These influences are manifested and have a direct bearing on the emotions of the adolescents.

Bandura (1983) stresses the importance of family and social environment in the causation and regulation of aggressive behaviour. Frustration occurs when the motivated behaviour is thwarted or blocked, so the goals are not reached. Frustration always results in aggressive behaviour (Dollard et.al 1939). Secondly aggression is more likely when frustration is perceived as unjustified (Zillmann and Cantor, 1976). Perhaps the most common source of aggression is a verbal insult or negative evaluation from other persons (Buss, 1971).

According to Udey Shanker, when the needs are suppressed, adolescents become frustrated and this leads to aggression.

The term 'family environment' refers to all the objects, forces and conditions in the intellectually and emotionally. Family environment in the form of parent's education, religious background, attitude, values, interest, time spent by parents on the child, cooperation, respect, affection have a cogent factor in arousing aggression, the latter once aroused may lead to hostile and destructive behaviour.

Review of Related Studies

Rudo and Doulop (1998) found that adolescents who perceived their parents to be authoritarian demonstrated more overall aggressive behaviour.

Yizhen and Junxia (2006) studied the relationship between family characteristics and aggressive behaviours of children and adolescents. The results showed that maternal education, paternal occupation, family type, parental child-rearing attitude and patterns, students' interpersonal relationship were significantly associated with the children's and adolescents' aggression.

Ajay and Sona (2016) studied the aggression among senior secondary school students in relation to family environment. A significant negative relationship was found between the aggression of senior secondary school students with five dimensions of family environment (i.e. cohesion, conflict, acceptance and caring, independence and active recreational orientation).

Biswas (1989) found that urban-rural differences affect the frustration reaction of 8th class students.

Vij and Nanada (1999) in their study concluded that adolescent boys were more aggressive than rural adolescent boys.

Need of the Study

In recent times aggression in school setting is increasing in greater proportion. Adolescents show greater tendency for aggression. Also this era is characterised by market forces dominated by materialistic outlook. The focus on aggression among adolescents has emerged as a key area of researches in psychology, education, guidance and counselling.

As much of the work on aggression has been done in foreign countries and little in India, therefore researcher has tried to explore this field further.

Objectives of the Study

1. To ascertain the relationship between aggression and family environment of adolescents.
2. To find the difference in the aggression due to congenial, average and poor family environment of adolescents.
3. To assess the difference in the level of aggression of adolescents belonging to urban and rural areas.

Hypotheses

1. There will be no significant relationship between aggression and family environment of adolescents.
2. There will be no significant difference in the level of aggression due to congenial, average and poor family environment of adolescents.

3. There will be no significant difference in the aggression of adolescents belonging to urban and rural areas.

Method

In the present study, descriptive survey method of research was employed.

Sample

The present study was conducted on a sample of 800 students (400 boys and 400 girls) studying in 10th class in the senior secondary schools of four districts i.e. Barnala, Sri Muktsar Sahib ,Bhatinda and Sangrur of Punjab state.

Tools

Following tools were used in the present study.

1. Aggression Scale (Mathur & Bhatnagar,2004)
2. Family Environment Scale (Bhatia & Chadha,2005)

Analysis of Data , Interpretation And Discussion of Results

Table 1: Relationship of Aggression with Family Environment

	Family Environment
Aggression	.398**

As per the results of Table 1, family environment was found to be significantly negatively correlated with the variable of aggression due to significant value of 'r' (r = -.398) at .01 level. Thus hypothesis 1 is rejected.

The result may be due to the fact that higher the interaction between the parents and the children, facilities at home, congenial family environment, respect for each other will make the environment cool, stress-free and hence lower the aggression among adolescents.

Table 2: Level of Aggression among adolescents due to congenial, average and poor family environment

Variable	Group	N	Mean	SD	SE _D	df	t-ratio
Family Environment	Congenial	111	159.00	14.67	I & II = 1.69	666	-2.517**
	Average	557	164.62	22.59	II & III = 2.40	687	-9.885**
	Low	132	186.26	25.32	I & III = 2.61	241	-10.197**

Significant difference was obtained in the aggression level of adolescents having congenial & average family environment, average & poor family environment, congenial & poor family environment due to significant t-values at .01 levels. Level of aggression among adolescents with congenial family environment was low as compared to other groups. Therefore hypothesis 2 was also rejected.

The reason for the above results may be that adolescents living in the congenial family environment had the access of some basic facilities such as indoor games, magazine, newspapers, interaction with family members and other people outside exposure in the form of tour and travels, which ultimately develop the feelings of brotherhood, respect for the elders, love or youngers and feeling of oneness. Parents in such families take care of the child in some goal and not on such things which provoke and leads to aggression.

Table 3: Level of Aggression among urban and rural adolescents

Variable	Group	N	Mean	SD	SE _D	df	t-ratio
Area wise difference	Urban	400	178.60	24.52	1.49	798	14.909**
	Rural	400	156.39	19.51			

Results of table 3 revealed significant difference in the level of aggression between adolescents belonging to urban and rural area due to significant t- value ($t=4.909$) at .01 level. Urban adolescents were found to be more aggressive (mean = 178.60) as compared to rural adolescents (mean = 156.39). Thus hypothesis 3 was also rejected.

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