Parenting Style and the aggression among their children

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ABSTRACT

The present endeavour aims at to explore the Parenting as it experienced by their children in relation to the aggression as observed by their parents in terms of physical aggression, verbal aggression, anger, and hostility. Correlation design followed by the t-test were applied using the standardized tools to observe the participants responses on the parenting styles and the aggression. Result revealed the significant positive and negative correlation of positive and negative parenting with the lower and higher aggression among their children respectively concluded that positive the parenting, lower the aggression, negative the parenting higher the aggression among their children.

Adolescence is facing multitude of problems throughout the world. Adolescents are suffering from different maladjustment problems at one time or the other during their development. The major problems that usually involved with these age groups are substance abuse and some internalizing problems like depression, anxiety, and externalizing problems like aggression, delinquency and educational difficulties are common among children.

In the present days, children are not developed emotionally, it is seen that homes where tension is continuous, this type of home environment damage the children’s emotional development. Aggressive behavior among children also extended because of poor parenting and poor family relationships (Haggai and Mallum, 2000). Nik Rosila et al., (2010) also found that early bonding between parent-child is very essential. Parents who do not understand their responsibility and value of parenting towards their children, causes more social problems among them. Early education of children starts from family and it shaped their personality. The development of aggressive behavior among children starts from lacking of attention. Elizabeth . et al. (2012) revealed that physically aggressive parenting is highly linked to aggressive behavior of their children. Each moment of a child’s life that he spends in contact with his parents predicts his potentialities for the future. This process of child rearing is generally influenced by the characteristic’s ways of thinking, feeling and acting, prevalent in the cultural group to which the family belongs. Sears et al. (1957) found that mothers who were anxious about how successful they were in child rearing tended to have more aggressive children than mothers who did not worry unduly about the job they
were doing. The child’s aggression level can be affected by the parent’s sensing the needs of their infants. Some parents are able to quickly notice their child’s moods and periods of distress, i.e., synchrony, and parents comfort their child’s need. Cole and Rehm (1986) showed that low level of parental praise has been associated with the internalize problems of their children like social withdrawal and anxiety. Whereas on the other hand, parental warmth, involvement, and communication increases the conflict resolution skills and skills to manage interpersonal relationships (Kochanska, 1993; Pettit et al. 1997). The family is both the earliest and most sustained source of social contact for the child. In the early years the sole relationships available to the child may be those with parents. The interaction and emotional relationship between infants and parents will shape the child’s expectancies and responses in subsequent social relations. Bandura (1973) investigated that the behavior of the parent determines or molds the behavior of the child. Children play an active role in their own socialization; children interpret and respond to the behavior of others in a unique fashion on the basis of their ability’s temperament, personality, and past experience (Bell and Harper, 1977). Loeber et al. (1998); Patterson (1982) exposed that conflicted parent-child interaction causes different types of behavioral problems in early childhood. Behavioral problems of the children also depend on the exposure to harsh parenting and aggressive parenting practices. Connor et al. (2002); Sim and Ong (2005) revealed that unhealthy parent-child interactions in the form of abuse and punishment are related to the aggressive behavior of the children. Booth et al. (1994) suggested that the early experiences of parental warmth are associated with the positive outcomes in the later childhood, whereas lack of parental warmth is associated with the child aggression and other behavioral problems. El-Sheikh and Elmore-Staton (2004) described that parent-child hostility, parent-child conflict are also the factors which increases the aggression. Therefore, the present study was designed to see the difference between children experiencing positive and negative parenting with respect to their aggression, with the following objectives.

**Objectives of the Study:**

1. To study the relationship of parenting style i.e. positive and negative parenting with the aggression among their children, in terms of physical aggression, verbal aggression, anger, and hostility.
2. To see the difference between the children on their aggression in terms of their positive and negative parenting style.

**Design of the Study:**

In the present study, correlation design was used to examine the relationship of positive parenting and negative parenting with aggression among their children. Further, t-test was applied to see the difference between children experiencing positive parenting and negative parenting with respect to their aggression in terms of physical aggression, verbal aggression, anger, and hostility.

**Participants:**

86 students comprised the participants of the study, 43 each were selected on the basis of their test scores experiencing (reflecting) positive and negative parenting on the test conducted using parent-child Relationship Scale in three schools of the city and whose parents gave their consent to participate in the study.

**Tools Used:**

The following standardized research tools were employed in the present study i.e., Parent-Child Relationship Scale (Nalini Rao, 1989) conducted on the children, to observe their parenting style in terms of positive and negative parenting. While Aggression Questionnaire (Buss and Perry, 1992) was administered to their parents individually to observe their ward’s aggression.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION:**

**Positive Parenting and Aggression among their Children** (See Table 1):

The result of the correlation analysis shows the significant and negative correlation of overall positive parenting with the Physical Aggression (\(-.512, p<0.01\)), Verbal Aggression (\(-.340**, p<0.01\)), Anger (\(-.343** p<0.01\)), and Hostility (\(-.325** p<0.01\)) (See Table 5.1).
Table 1
Correlation Analysis of Positive Parenting with Aggression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive Parenting</th>
<th>Physical Aggression</th>
<th>Verbal Aggression</th>
<th>Anger</th>
<th>Hostility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protecting</td>
<td>-.560**</td>
<td>-.334*</td>
<td>-.531**</td>
<td>-.414**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symbolic Punishment</td>
<td>-.439**</td>
<td>-.310*</td>
<td>-.408**</td>
<td>-.335*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symbolic Reward</td>
<td>-.564**</td>
<td>-.241</td>
<td>-.373*</td>
<td>-.323*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loving</td>
<td>-.537**</td>
<td>-.277</td>
<td>-.379*</td>
<td>-.368*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object Reward</td>
<td>-.516**</td>
<td>-.303*</td>
<td>-.449**</td>
<td>-.406**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Positive Parenting</td>
<td>-.512**</td>
<td>-.340*</td>
<td>-.343*</td>
<td>-.325*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Correlation is significant at the level at the 0.01 level.
* Correlation is significant at the level at the 0.05 level.

Further, in terms of the sub-factors of positive parenting, the result also showed the significant and negative correlation of ‘protecting’ with the physical aggression (-.560**, p<0.01), verbal aggression (-.334*, p<0.05), anger (-.531**, p<0.01), and hostility (-.414**, p<0.01). Besides, the correlation of symbolic punishment, is also significantly and negatively correlated with physical aggression (-.439**, p<0.01), verbal aggression (-.310*, p<0.05), anger (-.408**, p<0.01), and hostility (-.335*, p<0.05). Whereas, the correlation of symbolic reward with physical aggression (-.564**, p<0.01), anger (-.373**, p<0.05), and hostility (-.323**, p<0.05) are also significant and negative but it is not significant (-.241) with verbal aggression. The correlation of the sub-factor, ‘loving’, is also significant and negative with physical aggression (-.537**, p<0.01), anger (-.379*, p<0.05), and hostility (-.368*, p<0.05) except verbal aggression (-.277). Whereas, the correlation between object reward and physical aggression, (-.516**, p<0.01), verbal aggression (-.303*, p<0.05), anger (-.449**, p<0.01), and hostility (-.406**, p<0.01) is again significant and negative in direction.

Negative Parenting and Aggression among their Children (See Table 2):

Further, the correlation of overall negative parenting is significant and positive with the physical aggression (.528**, p<0.01), verbal aggression (.377*, p<0.05), anger (.355*, p<0.05), and hostility (.448**, p<0.01) among their children.
Besides, the correlation are also significant and positive between the sub factors of negative parenting i.e., rejecting and physical aggression (.571**, p<0.01), verbal aggression (.502**, p<0.01), anger (.488**, p<0.01), and hostility (.363*, p<0.05) among their children. While in terms of the object punishment, correlations are also significant and positive with the physical aggression (.569**, p<0.01), verbal aggression (.507**, p<0.01), anger (.463**, p<0.01), and hostility (.349*, p<0.05) among their children. Whereas the correlations of its sub-factor, demanding is significant and positive correlation with the physical aggression (.554**, p<0.01), verbal aggression (.454**, p<0.01), anger (.472**, p<0.01), and hostility (.366*, p<0.05) among their children. Similarly the correlations between the its sub-factor indifferent and physical aggression (.358*, p<0.05), verbal aggression (.461**, p<0.01), anger (.439**, p<0.01), and hostility (.351*, p<0.05) are also significant and positive. The neglecting, the sub factor of negative parenting is also significantly and positively correlated with physical aggression (.579**, p<0.01), verbal aggression (.441**, p<0.01), anger (.463**, p<0.01), and hostility (.346*, p<0.05) among their children. Hence, the results of negative parenting and its sub factors are significantly and positively correlated with the physical aggression, verbal aggression, anger, hostility and overall aggression among their children.

Table 2.
Correlation Analysis of Negative Parenting with Aggression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Negative Parenting</th>
<th>Physical Aggression</th>
<th>Verbal Aggression</th>
<th>Anger</th>
<th>Hostility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rejecting</td>
<td>.571**</td>
<td>.502**</td>
<td>.488**</td>
<td>.363*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object Punishment</td>
<td>.569**</td>
<td>.507**</td>
<td>.463**</td>
<td>.349*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demanding</td>
<td>.554**</td>
<td>.454**</td>
<td>.472**</td>
<td>.366*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indifferent</td>
<td>.358*</td>
<td>.461**</td>
<td>.439**</td>
<td>351*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglecting</td>
<td>.579**</td>
<td>.441**</td>
<td>.463**</td>
<td>.346*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Negative Parenting</td>
<td>.528**</td>
<td>.377*</td>
<td>.355*</td>
<td>.448**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Correlation is significant at the level at the 0.01 level.
* Correlation is significant at the level at the 0.05 level.

In addition, the table 3 showed the significant difference on the physical aggression between the children experiencing positive parenting and negative parenting and the mean score of the children experiencing negative parenting (M=26.55) is higher than the mean
score of children experiencing positive parenting (M=20.80) i.e. the children having negative parenting have higher physical aggression than the children having positive parenting.

In addition, the table 3. showed the significant difference between the children’s having positive and negative parenting their overall aggression and its sub-

**Table 3.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Negative Parenting</th>
<th>Positive Parenting</th>
<th>‘t’ Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>Mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Aggression</td>
<td>26.55</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>20.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal Aggression</td>
<td>18.41</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>14.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anger</td>
<td>22.72</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>17.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hostility</td>
<td>26.27</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>19.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** significant at the level at the 0.01 level.
* significant at the level at the 0.05 level.

factors, Physical aggression (t=4.82**, p<0.01), verbal aggression (t=5.42**, p<0.01) anger (t=6.28**, p<0.01) and hostility hostility (t=7.99**, p<0.01) and the mean values of Physical aggression (M=26.55/ 20.80) verbal aggression (M=18.41/14.72) anger (M=22.72/17.83) and hostility (M=26.27/19.23) are higher among the children having negative parenting than the children having positive parenting.

Hence, the result of the present study clearly revealed the significant and negative relationship between the overall positive parenting and in terms of its sub-factors, protecting, Symbolic Punishment, Symbolic Reward, Loving and Object Reward, besides showed the significant difference between the children having positive and negative parenting in terms of their overall aggression and its sub factors, physical aggression, verbal aggression, anger and hostility with having lower mean values among the children having positive parenting than the children having negative parenting i.e., positive the parenting, lower the aggression among their Children. However, in case of negative parenting the correlations of overall parenting in terms of its sub factors Rejecting, Object Punishment, Demanding, Indifferent and Neglecting are also significant but positive in direction and exposed the significant difference between the children’s overall aggression and its sub factors, physical aggression, verbal aggression, anger and hostility experiencing positive
and negative parenting and having higher mean values among the children’s of negative parenting than the children’s of their counterpart i.e., negative the parenting, higher the aggression among their children.

The earlier researches do corroborate the findings of the present research directly and indirectly. Baumrind, Laezelere and Owens, (2010) observed the positive parenting style is supportive to the children and act as protective factor against aggressive behavior. Snyder, et al. (2005, 2003) found that Parents who are inconsistent in their approach towards their child can unintentionally promote negative child behavior (Rutter et al., 2008). Reducing harsh, negative and inconsistent parenting has been shown to have a positive influence on children’s behavior (Eyberg, Nelson and Boggs, 2008; Kaminski et al. 2008). The Parents who have skills to manage their anti-social behavior in children can bring them back to their normal behavior (Jouriles, et al., 2009). Separation from parents and poor communication between parents and children can causes problems of depression and aggressive behavior among their children. Beck et al., (2004), found that behavioral control may cause aggression and lower caring behavior among children. Knuston et al., 2005 added that children showed aggression because they frequently scolded, and punished by their parents. These harsh behaviors create anger which leads to the development of aggression behaviors among children. It is found that behavioral control is the foundation of the negative behaviors like delinquent behavior, robbery, and these parents thinks that behavioral control is a tool to protect their children’s behavior from less desired behavior, but these parents do not realize that behavioral control actually contributes to psychological problems among children (Hoeve et al., 2008). Pezzella, (2010), found that children who live in authoritative homes were well behaved as compared to the children live in authoritarian and permissive homes are more aggressive and more hostile. According to Daniel, Wassell, and Gilligan, (1999), authoritarian parenting (negative parenting style) in non-interactive style has serious development drawbacks and their children are more vulnerable to anti-social peer pressure during adolescence (Collins et al., 2000). Sternberg, Lamborn, Dornbusch, and Darling (1992), examined in a longitudinal cohort of young adults for whom drug histories are available. Parents who are harsh or punitive in discipline methods and disagree with their parents about discipline are more likely to report that their child are aggressive, have control problems, and are disobedient. Parents who report that they are close to their children are well adjusted and do not have control problems. Esfandyri, Baharudin, and Nowzari, (2009)
reported that parent-child-relationship were found to have connection with child’s school adjustment. Positive parenting may reduce the risk interrelated with various child problematic characteristics and behavior, where as negative parenting may heighten these risk for children with extreme temperaments (Propper and Moore, 2006; Wood, McLeod, Sigman, Hwang and Chu, 2003). According to Haggai and Mallum (2000), child must suffer from aggression if there are poor family relationships or poor parenting. Harsh parenting style leads to development of behavioral problems and aggression. Snyder, Reid and Patterson, (2003) family plays an important role in the creation or prevention of risky behaviors like aggression in their children as well in the identity development of the adolescents.

Hence, The result of the present study confirmed the significant and negative relationship between positive parenting and aggression among their children, while it is significant but positive between negative parenting and aggression among their children i.e., positive the parenting, lower the Aggression, Negative the parenting, higher the aggression among their children.

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