

# STUDY OF AGGRESSION AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN RELATION TO PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

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## ABSTRACT

With increasing level of complexities in an individual's life, adolescence is not left untouched which is considered to be the most crucial span of one's life. Today, Adolescents are facing psychological problems such as depression, anxiety and frustration, one of them increasing with rapid rate in aggression. There are many factors causing aggression among adolescents. Some of them are mental health, broken houses, presence of step parents, media violence, adjustment, poverty, low academic achievement, parent-child relationships. One of the major factors is parent-child relationship. Parent-Child relationship has a great effect on the development of the child physically, socially, intellectually, morally and emotionally. Restricting and controlling behavior of parents is many times frustrating for the child and may culminate in aggression by the child. The most common sources of anger in children are home situations that interfere with the goal striving of the child. The present study throws light upon the line of action of guidance workers in the eradication of aggressiveness among adolescents and look forward for various programmes in the development of good parent-child relationship among adolescents as a whole.

**Keywords:** Adolescents, Aggression, Parent- child relation, Violence

## INTRODUCTION

Violence and aggression are the most vital issues which modern society faces. Despite wide spread of education, independence, freedom from deprivation, fulfillment of basic needs and wants, improvement in socio-economic conditions and style of living, improvement in child rearing practices, in many countries around the globe, Aggression and violence are on rise. The daily newspapers, electronic media like television and radio are full of information on violence, crime, murder, rape, child abuse, sexual harassment, molestation, etc. The horrible violence particularly against women, children and innocent person indicate the morbid and dangerous disease human beings are suffering from. The alarming rise in the aggression and in disciplined behavior of modern youths like burning cars, buses, destroying public property, assaulting common men on slightest faults, eve teasing passing fifthly comments on women rise finger at the way society is progressing. **Coyneand Ostrov (2018)**. According to **Morrow *et al* (2018)** the

impact of verbal victimization on children's self-views could be exacerbated in classrooms that better manage peer-to-peer aggression. Accordingly, targeted interventions appear critical for children who continue to experience peer victimization in schools with highly effective aggression prevention programs.

We feel proud for the contribution and sacrifice of our grandparents and forefathers to the nation at the cost of their personal interest and comfort and happiness but at the same time we feel ashamed at the dangerous rise in aggressive and violent behavior of present generation throughout the world though the degree of violence and aggression varies from place to place, society to society and country to country **Mohanty (2005)**.

## AGGRESSION

Aggression in anti social sense is violent and destructive behavior that is purposely directed against other people or the environment violently. **Hilgard (1962)**. **Connor et al. (2004)** found that high rates of proactive and reactive aggression in males and females adolescents. **Nersin et.al (2011)** found that the severity of depression in the patient group could be predicted by aggressive and internalized anger, dissatisfaction with interpersonal relationships, negative self perception.

Aggression can either be directed inward by self-mutation or suicide or directed outwardly at another person. It is an action intended to harm someone. Aggression can be covert and not as detectable. Typically, however aggression is predominately understood by many as direct physical and verbal attacks instead of these more covert methods. Lacks of loving, accepting and affectionate behavior of parents develop a feeling of in security, low self confidence and aggression. According to **Coi and Dodge (2000)**. The term aggression refers to wide spectrum of behavior, in the psychological literature. It is defined as any behavior intended to harm individual who is motivated to avoid being harmed. **Perry (2002)** found that youngsters who are chronically aggressed are at the increased risk for depression, anxiety, social withdrawal, low self-esteem and stress.

## PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

In general 'relationship' is defined as any type of bondage (may be positive or negative) between two individuals having some common characteristics, sharing certain things among them and there is a give and take between such two individuals. **Strepriya (2009)** reports that unconditioned love, guidance and cooperation between parents and child develop a sense of security among children. It provides opportunity for child to develop creative thinking.

Parent-Child relationship greatly affects the emotional development of the child which is an important aspect of overall personality. The treatment which the child receives from his parents determines, to a large extent the kind of traits which the child exhibits throughout his life. The child as well as his

parents performs the relative roles based upon mutual understanding, confidence, love and respect through social interactions. Psychologists, educationists and sociologists all agree that family influence happens to be the most significant influence during the child's development. **Raut (2004)** reported that the parent's age and qualification are correlated with their attitude towards adolescence education. **Bali (2001)** in his study reported that there is a negative correlation between adjustment and academic achievement with parent child relationship. Parent-Child attachment is one of the most important aspects of child's survival and development starting immediately after birth. Attachment is strengthened by mutually satisfying interaction between the parents and child throughout the first month of life, called bonding.

## OBJECTIVES

- 1) To study Aggression among Adolescent boys and girls.
- 2) To study Parent-Child relationship of Adolescent boys and girls.
- 3) To find out the relationship between Aggression and Parent-Child relationship of Adolescent boys and girls.
- 4) To compare Aggression among Adolescent boys and girls.
- 5) To compare Aggression among Adolescents from urban and rural areas.

## DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The study was limited to 200 adolescent students only.
2. The study was limited to Ludhiana district only.

## HYPOTHESES

1. There exists a significant relationship between Aggression and Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents boys and girls.
  - 1.1 There exists a significant relationship between Aggression and Dimension-I (Protecting) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents boys and girls.
  - 1.2 There exists a significant relationship between Aggression and Dimension-II (Symbolic punishment) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents boys and girls.
  - 1.3 There exists a significant relationship between Aggression and Dimension-III (Rejecting) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents boys and girls.
  - 1.4 There exists a significant relationship between Aggression and Dimension-IV (Object punishment) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents boys and girls.
  - 1.5 There exists a significant relationship between Aggression and Dimension-V (Demanding) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents boys and girls.

- 1.6 There exists a significant relationship between Aggression and Dimension-VI (Indifferent) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents boys and girls.
- 1.7 There exists a significant relationship between Aggression and Dimension-VII (Symbolic Reward of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents boys and girls.
- 1.8 There exists a significant relationship between Aggression and Dimension-VIII (Loving) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents boys and girls.
- 1.9 There exists a significant relationship between Aggression and Dimension-IX (Object Rewarding) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents boys and girls.
- 1.10 There exists a significant relationship between Aggression and Dimension-X (Neglecting) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents boys and girls.
2. There exists a significant difference in aggression among boys and girls.
3. There exists a significant difference in aggression among adolescents from urban and rural areas.

### SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

In the present study investigator selected 200 adolescents (100 boys and 100 girls) of urban and rural areas belonging to government/private recognized schools of district, Ludhiana .The schools were randomly selected but availability of students, favorable attitude of principal, students and convenience of the investigator were also taken in consideration while selecting the school.

**Table 1 Description of the sample**

S. No.	Name of Schools	Areas	Boys	Girls
1.	N.M Jain School, Bharat Nagar Chowk, Ludhiana.	Urban	10	10
2.	Partap Public School, Ludhiana	Urban	10	10
3.	Govt. Senior Secondary School, Haibowal Kalan, Ludhiana.	Urban	10	10
4.	G.G.N Public School, Ludhiana.	Urban	10	10
5.	Govt.High School, Gobind Nagar, Ludhiana.	Urban	10	10
6.	Govt.High School, Doraha, Ludhiana.	Rural	10	10
7.	Govt.High School, Ayali Kalan, Ludhiana.	Rural	10	10
8.	Decent Public School, Kakka Dhola Road, Ludhiana.	Rural	10	10
9.	Satluj Sen. Sec. School, Ludhiana.	Rural	10	10

10.	Govt. Sen. Sec. School, Sidhwan Khurd, Ludhiana	Rural	10	10
	<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>200</b>	

**TOOLS USED:**

1. Aggression Scale (AS) by **Dr. (Mrs.) G.P. Mathur and Dr. (Mrs.) Raj Kumari Bhatnagar (2004)**.
2. Parent-Child relationship Scale (PCRS-RN) by **Late Nalini Rao (2011)**.

**STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED**

1. Mean, median, mode, standard deviation, t-test, coefficient of correlation was employed for the analysis of the data.
2. Graphical Representation was done wherever required.

**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA**

**Table 2: Co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-I (Protecting) of Parent- Child Relationship among Adolescents (N=200).**

Aggression and Dimension-I (Protecting) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents.	$r = 0.148$	Significant at 0.01 level
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**Table 2** Shows the co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-I (Protecting) Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents as 0.148 which is positive and significant at 0.01 level of confidence. It implies that the defending attitude overtly expressed in acts of guarding, shielding and sheltering the child from the situation or experience perceived to be harmful or hostile. It will have positive effect on aggression. Therefore the hypothesis 1.1 stating that a significant relationship exists between Aggression and Dimension-I (Protecting) of Parent-Child Relationship among adolescents stands accepted.

**Table 3: Co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-II (Symbolic Punishment) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents (N=200).**

Aggression and Dimension-II (Symbolic Punishment) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents.	$r = - 0.024$	Non Significant at 0.01 level
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**Table 3** Shows the co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-II (Symbolic Punishment) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents as -0.024 which is negative and non significant at 0.01 level of confidence. It can be interpreted that symbolic and physical means by which parents show temporary annoyance with the child will lead aggression among children. Therefore the hypothesis 1.2 stating that a significant relationship exists between Aggression and Dimension-II (Symbolic Punishment) of Parent-Child Relationship among adolescents stands rejected.

**Table 4: Co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-III (Rejecting) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents (N=200).**

Aggression and Dimension-III (Rejecting) of Parent- Child Relationship among Adolescents.	$r = 0.153$	Significant at 0.05 level
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**Table 4** Shows the co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-III (Rejecting) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents as 0.153 which is positive and significant at 0.05 level of confidence. It means that rejecting attitude of the parents in being disdainful and outright refusal of the child will lead to aggressive behavior among adolescents. Therefore the hypothesis 1.3 stating that a significant relationship exists between Aggression and Dimension-III (Rejecting) of Parent-Child Relationship among adolescents stands partially accepted.

**Table 5: Co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-IV (Object Reward) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents (N=200).**

Aggression and Dimension-IV (Object Reward) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents.	$r = 0.185$	Significant at 0.01 level
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**Table 5** Shows the co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-IV (Object Reward) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents as 0.185 which is positive and significant at 0.01 level of confidence. It means that object reward in terms of emotional, psychological security, warmth indicate parent's acceptance of the child will lower the rate of aggression among adolescents. Therefore the hypothesis 1.4 stating that a significant relationship exists between Aggression and Dimension-IV (Object Reward) of Parent-Child Relationship stands accepted.

**Table 6: Co-efficient of correlation between Aggression Dimension-V (Demanding) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents (N=200).**

Aggression and Dimension-V (Demanding) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents.	$r = 0.153$	Significant at 0.05 level
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**Table 6** Shows the co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-V (Demanding) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents as 0.153 which is positive and significant at 0.05 level of confidence. It means that the expression of authority and command over the child or exercise of overall control will increase the aggression level among the adolescents. Therefore the hypothesis 1.5 stating that a significant relationship exists between Aggression and Dimension-V (Demanding) of Parent-Child Relationship among adolescents stands accepted.

**Table 7: Co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-VI (Indifferent) of Parent Child Relationship among Adolescents (N=200).**

Aggression and Dimension-VI (Indifferent) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents.	$r = 0.112$	Non-Significant at 0.01 level
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**Table 7** Shows the co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-VI (Indifferent) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents as 0.112 which is positive and non-significant at 0.01 level of confidence. It implies that the unconcerned and passive behavior of the parents will increase the aggression level of adolescents. Therefore the hypothesis 1.6 stating that a significant relationship exists between Aggression and Dimension-VI (Indifferent) of Parent-Child Relationship among adolescents stands rejected.

**Table 8:** Co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-VII (Symbolic Reward) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents (N=200).

Aggression and Dimension-VII (Symbolic Reward) of Parent- Child Relationship among Adolescents.	$r = 0.199$	Significant at 0.01 level
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**Table 8** Shows the co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-VII (Symbolic Reward) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents as 0.199 which is positive and significant at 0.01 level of confidence. It means that parent's acceptance of the child will lower the level of aggression. Therefore the hypothesis 1.7 stating that a significant relationship exists between Aggression and Dimension-VII (Symbolic Reward) of Parent-Child Relationship among adolescents stands accepted.

**Table 9:** Co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-VIII (Loving) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents (N=200).

Aggression and Dimension-VIII (Loving) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents.	$r = - 0.020$	Non-Significant at 0.01 level
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**Table 9** Shows the co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-VIII (Loving) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents as - 0.020 which is negative and non-significant at 0.01 level of confidence. It means unloving attitude of parents and lack of attachment shown to the child will increase level of aggression of adolescents. Therefore the hypothesis 1.8 stating that a significant relationship exists between Aggression and Dimension-VIII (Loving) of Parent-Child Relationship among adolescents stands rejected



**Table 10: Co-efficient of correlation between Aggression Dimension-IX (Object Reward) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents (N=200).**

Aggression and Dimension-IX (Object Reward) of Parent- Child Relationship among Adolescents.	$r = -0.246$	Non Significant at 0.01 level
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**Table 10** Shows the co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-IX (Object Reward) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents as 0.246 which is positive and significant at 0.01 level of confidence. It means symbolic expression of appreciation for emotional, psychological security of the child as against physical, tangible, action of warmth. Both indicates the parent's acceptance of the child which is a precursor for the child to achieve, aspire and advance. Therefore the hypothesis 1.9 stating that a significant relationship exists between Aggression and Dimension-IX (Object Reward) of Parent-Child Relationship among adolescents stands rejected.

**Table 11: Co-efficient of correlation between Aggression Dimension-X (Neglecting) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents (N=200).**

Aggression and Dimension-X (Neglecting) of Parent Child Relationship among Adolescents.	$r = 1.000$	Significant at 0.01level
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**Table 11** Shows the co-efficient of correlation between Aggression and Dimension-X (Neglecting) of Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescents as 1.000 which is positive and significant at 0.01level of confidence. It implies that a careless slighting treatment indicated in accustomed omission and deliberate disregard towards the child which might leave the child to devalue himself. Therefore the hypothesis 1.10 stating that a significant relationship exists between Aggression and Dimension-X (Neglecting) of Parent-Child Relationship among adolescents stands accepted.

**CONCLUSION:** The overall results of correlation show that:

- (a) There exists a positive significant relationship between Aggression and dimensions - Protecting, Rejecting, Object Reward, Demanding, Symbolic Reward, Neglecting of parent-child relationship.

- (b) A negative and non-significant relationship was found between Aggression and dimensions Symbolic Punishment, Indifferent, Loving, and Object Reward of parent-child relationship.

Hence, in general Parent- Child Relationship among Adolescents plays an important role in determining the aggression level among adolescents. So, the hypotheses that there exists a significant relationship between Aggression and Parent- Child Relationship among Adolescents stands accepted.

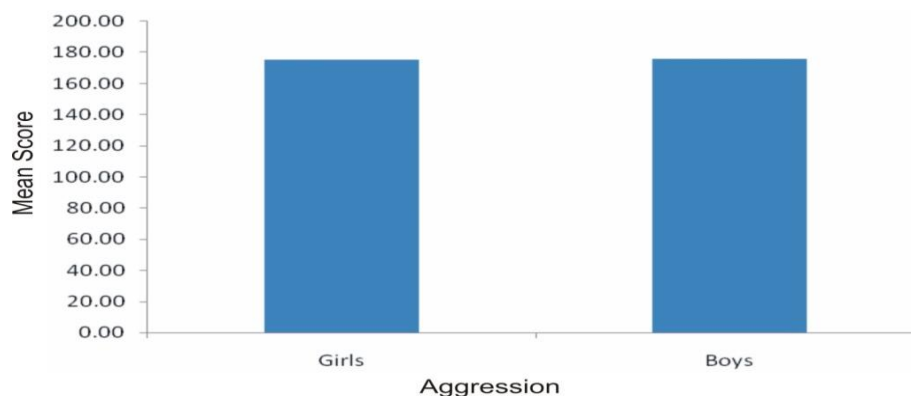
t-ratio

**Table 12: Showing significance difference of means of Aggression among Boys and Girls.**

Group	Mean	N	S.D.	t-Ratio
Boys	175.650	100	13.236	0.107
Girls	175.420	100	16.986	

**Table 12** Shows that mean scores of Aggression of Boys and Girls are 175.420 and 175.650 respectively and their standard deviation is 13.236 and 16.986 respectively. The t-ratio was calculated as 0.107 which is non significant at 0.01 level of significance

**Figure 12: Bar graph showing significance of difference of means of Aggression among Boys & Girls.**



This shows that there exists a non-significant difference between the Aggression level among boys and girls. Because today, Adolescents whether boys or girls are facing equal psychological problems such as depression, anxiety, frustration due to rapid and excessive competition leading to increase in rapid rate of aggression. Hence, the hypotheses 2 that there exists a significant difference in aggression among boys and girls stand rejected.

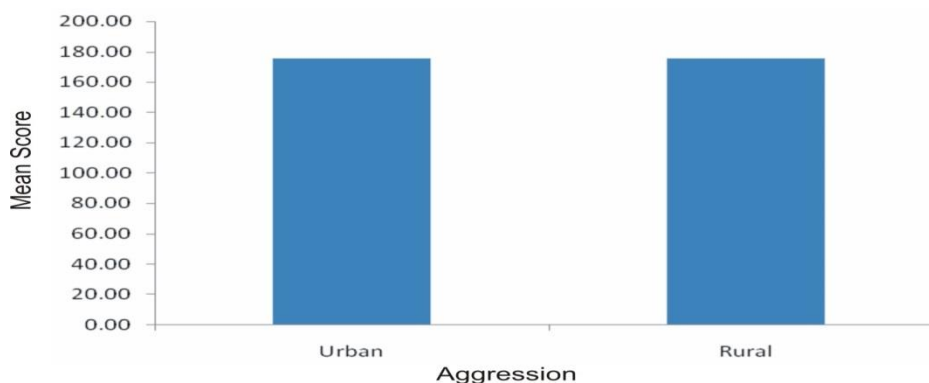
**Table 13:** Showing the significance difference of means of Aggression among Adolescents from Rural and Urban Areas.

Group	Mean	N	S.D.	t-Ratio
Urban	175.720	100	17.043	0.172
Rural	175.350	100	13.160	

**Table 13** Shows that mean scores of Aggression among Adolescents of Urban and Rural areas are 175.720 and 175.350 respectively and S.D. of Urban and Rural is 17.043 and 13.160 respectively. The t-ratio was 0.172 which is non significant at 0.05 and 0.01 level of significance. This could be attributed to equal exposure to technological advancement, media, violence and competitions in rural and urban areas.

Hence the hypothesis 3 that there exists a non-significant difference between Aggression among Adolescents from Urban & Rural areas stands rejected.

**Figure 13:** Bar graph showing the significance of difference of means of Aggression among Adolescents from Urban & Rural Areas.



## CONCLUSION:

1. There exists no significance difference between Aggression and Parent-Child Relationship among Adolescent boys and girls.
2. There exists no significance difference in Aggression among Adolescents from Urban and Rural Areas.

## EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The findings of the study will help the parents to understand the importance of good, congenial enriched home environment and healthy relations in reducing aggression among adolescents.
- This study would be of immense important to psychologists, sociologists, therapists, human development experts for understanding the relationship between aggression and parent child relationship.
- The findings of the study may help the parents to modify their attitudes and improve family climate for better development of their children because heredity factors cannot be changed but environment can be manipulated and modified.
- The identification of aggressive behaviour in adolescents will provide a plan-out for the educationalists, teachers and parents to channelize their energy and figure out ways and means to control anger and conduct disorders.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- The study of same nature can be undertaken in other states to study regional variations
- Aggression among adolescents in relation to school climate.
- Aggression in relation to Guidance needs for Adolescents can be taken.

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