



# A STUDY ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERCEIVED AUTHORITATIVE PARENTING STYLE AND AGGRESSION IN ADOLESCENT GIRLS

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**Abstract :** Family is the first environment which children grow up, and for this reason, it has a significant effect on their future behaviours. Also, Parenting styles involve nurturing the holistic development of a person from infancy through adolescence to adulthood. This research aims to study the relationship between perceived authoritative parenting style and aggression. Three hundred students between the ages 18 and 19 were selected randomly completed self-report measures: Perceived Parenting Questionnaire, Gafoor & kurukkan (2014), as well as Aggression Questionnaire, Buss & Perry. Using SPSS, the results showed that there was a significant inverse relationship between perceived authoritative parenting style and aggression and also it found that there was a no significant relationship was seen between the various arts stream girls and their aggression level. A perceived authoritative parenting style was associated with less aggressive behavior. High levels of affect and high levels of control, which define an authoritative style, were associated with the expression of low aggressive behaviour. In addition, further research studies are suggested to be carried for both genders.

**Keywords - Adolescence, aggression, perceived parenting style**

## I. INTRODUCTION

Family is the first environment where children grow up, and for this reason, it has a significant effect on their future behaviours. Also, Parenting styles involve nurturing the holistic development of a person from infancy through adolescence to adulthood. Aggressive behaviour is any demanding or intrusive behaviour that can have an adverse effect on others. It can be direct or indirect. It may be driven by some emotional frustrations or may be instrumental when it is need to secure a reward. It is considered as a learned behaviour or act as a frustration which is affected by various biological and environmental factors.

Family is a basic and universal institution. Parenting happens to be one of the most important roles of the family. Parenting has been defined as a single minded unconditional desire to provide a loving and caring home. Parents also influence their children in every aspect of their lives particularly in adolescence period; in the type of parenting approach they adopt to rear their child. Parenting style is defined as the manner in which parents treat, communicate, discipline, monitor and support their children (Slicker and Thornberry, 2003). When parents are warm, protective and supportive, children are unlikely to be over aroused and are better able to respond to parental efforts to focus their attention and guide their behaviour. This view is consistent with Vygotsky's (1978) view that cognitive skills are socially constructed through interactions with supportive and responsive adults.

Parenting styles may also be linked to children's regulation and externalizing behaviour problems because of its effects on the quality of the parent-child relationship. Parental warmth and acceptance, positive expressivity and protection have been linked to a secure attachment (Contreras et al., 2000) and this security is believed to foster regulated behaviour, because child has greater psychological resources for dealing with negative emotions and events. In addition children with more secure attachment are likely to be better at understanding others' emotions (Laible and Thompson, 2002), all of which could result in greater emotional control of behaviour and lower levels of aggressive behaviour. Keeping in view of the above the study was planned to investigate the relationship between aggressive behaviour and parenting style.

Due to its relevance, there has been an increase in interest to moderator factor of aggressive behaviour and as a disposition that encourages social adaptation. A large number of studies have demonstrated the importance of parenting style in the transmission of values and in the encouragement of aggressive behaviours (Carlo et al., 2010; Richard de Minzi et al., 2011). Indeed, parental

support predicts a strong sense of self-worth and security, greater psychological well-being, and other positive outcomes (Steinberg, 2001; Coplan et al., 2002). Parental control helps to shape responsible conformity and self-control in children.

Cevone and Pervin (2010) point out, they greatly impact the child's current and future behavior. Three manners in which parents are influential are identified: they serve as role models, choose when and if child behaviors will be rewarded, or punished, and are responsible for placing children in situations that evoke different behaviors. Although this idea has received much support from the literature, it is crucial for researchers to pay close attention to the reported discrepancies between parents and their offspring in regards to their perceptions of parenting styles. There is a tendency for caregivers to present their parenting techniques in a more positive light and for children to report less healthy patterns.

According to Bögels and van Melick (2004), these discrepancies may be the result of a difference in parent and child subjective experiences and perceptions. Additionally, they recognize that the child's perception of parenting may have a greater impact on their psychological development than the parenting techniques themselves.

Currently, research in the topic of perceived parenting styles and aggression is scarce; the majority of the findings in the literature have focused on child rearing styles from the parent's perspective (Broderick & Blewitt, 2009; Hoeve et al., 2011; Kawabata et al., 2011; Simmons et al., 2013). However, several findings on perceived parenting styles have been reported. It has been observed that individuals who sensed their parent's styles to be low on warmth and high on rejection displayed elevated levels of hostility. (Meesters, Muris, & Esselink, 1995). Similarly, Muris et al. (2004) reported that high levels of anger and hostility in individuals were positively related with high levels of perceived parental rejection, control, and inconsistency; all characteristics of the authoritarian parenting style. Additionally, they found elevated anger and hostility to be negatively correlated with sensed parental emotional warmth.

The purpose of this study is to contribute to the growing knowledge of the relationships between aggression, and perceived authoritative parenting styles in the adolescents. Based on current findings in the literature, the following hypothesis was generated:

1. There was a significant relationship between perceived authoritative parenting style and aggression.
2. There is a significant difference between the various arts stream girls and their aggression level.

## II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Population and Sample

Initially, the study incorporated 300 students between the ages of 18 and 19 from first year of six arts majors (50 participating respondents in each major). The sample was randomly selected, according to the availability and accessibility of the respondents. After narrowing those students whose parents could each be classified in one of the parenting styles, the data from 300 students (150 adolescent girls from each major) were used in the analyses that followed. Distribution according to majors in arts stream were 25 in Tamil, 25 in English, 25 in Commerce, 25 in Economics, 25 in Social Sciences and 25 in History respectively. Those adolescents were purposely selected to constitute the samples who perceived their parents parenting style as authoritative.

### 2.1 Data and Sources of Data

The required information about parenting styles and adolescents' aggression was gathered through Perceived Parenting Questionnaire, Gafoor & Kurukkan (2014), and Aggression Questionnaire, Buss & Perry.

*Perceived Parenting Questionnaire (Gafoor & Kurukkan, 2014)*: The questionnaire contained 38 questions; equal numbers of items were prepared to measure responsiveness and control. The tool consists of 19 responsiveness item and 19 control item. Items in the tool were arranged alternatively. Each question was scored from five to one. There are no negative items. The total score of control and total score of responsiveness found out separately. Scores for each parent were taken separately and sum of scores of each parents were taken for overall score of an item. Thus, the instrument yields six separate scores for each participant, namely mother's responsiveness, father's responsiveness, mother's control, father's control, parental responsiveness and parental control. The test-retest coefficient of reliability of responsiveness variable in the scale is 0.81 and for control 0.83. The validity coefficient is found to be 0.80 for responsiveness and 0.76 for control subscale.

The instrument used to collect data on aggression was the *Aggression Questionnaire (Buss & Perry)*, which comprised of 34 questions where participants rank certain statements along five point continuum from 'not at all like me' a little like me', 'somewhat like me', 'very much like me', 'completely like me'. The scores are normalised on a scale of 0 to 1, with 1 being the highest level of aggression. The questionnaire returns scores for four dimensions of aggression. Physical aggression (9 items), Verbal aggression (5 items), Anger (8 items), Hostility (8 items), Indirect aggression (4 items). The test-retest reliability of this questionnaire was 0.78. The internal consistency was between 0.70 and 0.80 are considered as good reliability estimates.

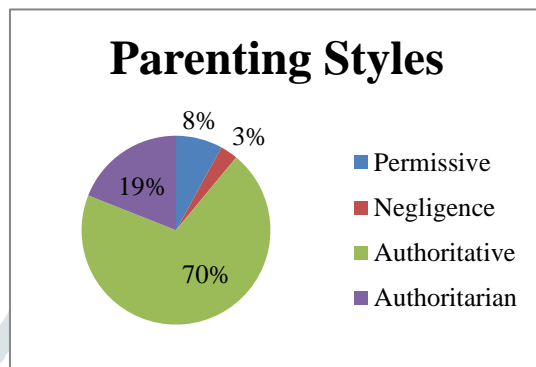
**Statistical Analysis**

The statistical analysis applied was one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA)

**III. RESULT & DISCUSSION**

Overall, 300 undergraduate students of 18 to 19 years participated in this study, of whom from various arts stream. Of the participants in the study, the results showed that the frequencies with respect to the authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, negligence parenting styles were 70% (210 respondents), 19% (authoritarian), 8% (permissive), and 3% (negligence) respectively as shown in Figure 3.1

**Figure 3.1:** Number of girls among different perceived parenting style



**Table 3.2:** Frequency distribution of girls in different parenting styles

Parenting styles	Frequency	%
Authoritative	210	70
Authoritarian	58	19.3
Permissive	23	7.6
Negligence	9	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>

The highest frequency belonged to the authoritative parenting style, while the lowest frequency belonged to the negligence style. The order of frequency in terms of parenting styles was authoritative, authoritarian, permissive and negligence, as shown in Table 3.2

**Table 3.3.** Frequency distribution of girls in various arts stream

Arts Stream	Frequency	%
Tamil	41	19.5
English	35	16.6
Commerce	29	13.8
Economics	40	19
Social Sciences	35	16.6
History	30	14.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100</b>

The results showed that the frequencies with respect to the girls in various arts stream who perceived parenting style as authoritative were 19.5% (41 respondents) from Tamil, 16.6% (35 respondents) English, 13.8% (29 respondents) Commerce, 19% (40 respondents) Economics, 16.6% (35 respondents) Social Sciences, 14.2% (30 respondents) History respectively. The frequency distribution of girls among various streams is shown in Table 3.3

**Table 3.4.** Relationship between perceived parenting style and adolescents' Aggression

Parenting Style	Authoritative	
	N	Correlation coefficient
Aggression	150	-0.42

To investigate the relationship between the perceived authoritative parenting style and adolescents' aggression, Pearson's correlation coefficient and the ANOVA test were used. The results showed that there was a significant inverse relationship between the perceived authoritative parenting style and adolescents' aggression.

The present study was implemented to examine the relationship between aggression and perceived parenting styles in adolescents in Lady Doak college. Based on our findings, results showed that there was a significant inverse relationship between perceived authoritative parenting style and aggression (as mentioned in Table 3.4).

**Table 3.5.** Relationship between Arts Stream and Aggression levels using ANOVA

Arts Stream	Language		Business		Social Sciences	
	F	P - Value	F	P - Value	F	P - Value
Aggression	0.82	0.62	1.67	0.10	0.95	0.51

To investigate the relationship between the various Arts Stream girls and their Aggression level, the ANOVA test was used. The results showed that there is no significant relationship was seen between the various arts stream girls and their aggression level (as can be seen in Table 3.5). Specifically, the higher the education levels, the less aggressive adolescents were likely to be.

Our interesting finding was the authoritative parenting was hypothesized to predict lower levels of aggression. There was an evidence to support this hypothesis of perceived authoritative parenting style as a predictor of lower levels of aggression. Our results agree with prior investigation that the perception of the authoritative parenting is related to a decrease in aggressiveness. Additionally, similar to the most predominant findings in the literature, authoritative family contexts are related to better psychosocial adjustment in children and adolescents for 3 reasons: first, greatest affect and acceptance causes children's to show more receptivity to parental influences. Second, an adequate combination of involvement and setting limits on children's behaviour, characteristics of the authoritative style, facilitates the development of self regulation skills, which enable youths to act competently.

The possible benefit of authoritative parenting on adolescent children, in terms of less expressed aggressiveness, anger and hostility, has been pointed out in other investigations. In recent studies, Garcia and Gracia (2009, 2010) found that children who defined their parents as indulgent scored the same as those who perceived them to be authoritative and showed better scores than those who labelled their parents as authoritarian or neglectful, on different measurements of psychosocial adjustment. Current findings displayed a significant relationship between perceived authoritative parenting style and aggression, this relationship was moderated by parental influences. However, because this proposed observation is supported in the present study more research is necessary.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The results suggest that the best parenting style to lower aggression and its elements is the authoritative style. Dominant parents place more emphasis on independent behaviours. While they are kind and friendly, they also impose boundaries, direct their children toward independence and pave the way to safeguarding their mental health. Hence it can be concluded that aggressive behaviour is significantly related to parenting style adopted by parents. The study was confined only to the adolescents of arts stream in Lady Doak college. The methodology of the present study may be adopted to replicate a research study with a larger sample for better generalization of the findings.

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