

## AGGRESSION AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN RELATION TO PARENT CHILD RELATIONSHIP

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### ABSTRACT

*The study explores the relationship between Aggression and Parent Child Relationship among Adolescents. Sample consists of 200 adolescents. Aggression Scale by R.L.Bharadwaj and Parenting Scale by R.L.Bharadwaj was used to collect the data. No significant relationship is found between aggression and different modes of parenting among adolescents.*

### PARENT CHILD RELATIONSHIP

Parents are the chief architects in shaping and reshaping the personality of a child. Loving and accepting parents provide healthy medium for the child to grow his energies into proper channels and exercise his potentials to the maximum (Kiran and Singh 1982). Whereas deprivation of opportunities to be loved and beloved retards the pattern of their speech development and affects the patterns of personalities. Parental rejection makes children fearful, insecure, jealous, aggressive and hostile. . Proper and efficient upbringing of a child is a highly complex task. However, it is paradoxical that in our country at the macro-level this complexity is neither fully realized nor even appreciated by most of the educated Indians. Parents in this country bring-up their children on the basis of their own childhood experiences, folklore wisdom and close observation of other parent etc.

Hollis and Kuczynski (1997) defines Parenting as the concept of mutual contribution by parents and child. The parents and child have equal probability in contributing to the interactional basis of the relationship despite asymmetry in power. Although parents hold more power than child, the power of the child is found in the relationship that the child has with the parents. William Sears (2001) defines Parenting as the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. It is an activity of raising a child rather than the biological relationship.

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Miller, Diorio and Dudley (2009) conducted a study entitled, 'Parenting style and adolescents reaction to conflict :Is there a relationship?' The study was done to determine if the reactions of the adolescents towards hypothetical situations that can lead to conflict and violence varied parenting styles of their mothers. The result indicated that parenting style is associated with adolescent's reactions to hypothetical situations that can provoke conflict. The findings highlights the importance of considering parents and their approach to child rearing as a factor in the adolescent's ability to react to conflict.

Elias H. and Yee (2009) carried a study on 'The relationship between perceived parental and maternal parenting styles and students' academic achievements'. The sample consisted of 247 students in two secondary schools. The data were collected using questionnaire. Results show that majority of the students perceived both their father and mother as authoritative. The findings revealed that perceived parental and maternal permissive, authoritative parenting styles were not significantly correlated with students' academic achievement.

## **AGGRESSION**

Aggression is a familiar term in common parlance, as well as a key concept in study of human behavior .Aggression is defined as physical or verbal behavior intended to harm. Aggression can neither be directed inward by self-mutiliation or suicide, nor directed outwardly at another person. The main thing in aggression is that it is deliberate, accidents; injuries are not form of aggression.

Everyone has a commonsense notion that aggression involves one person injuring another. The injury may be result from a physical attack such as assault, rape or murder. The attack may be psychological involving ridicule disparagement and similar assaults on other feelings about themselves. Economic attacks include being fired or denied a promotion without justification. The social attacks may involve ostracizing a person, coercing a person through social influence or inflicting on someone a loss in social status. Aggression might be viewed as a motivational state, a personality characteristic, a response to frustration, an inherent drive or the fulfillment of a socially learned role requirement(Harre and Lamb,1983). Anderson and Huesmann (2003) defines aggression as the behaviour that is directed towards another individual carried out with the proximate (immediate) intent to cause harm .Ferguson and Beaver (2009) defines aggression as the

behaviour which is intended to increase the social dominance of the organism relative to the dominance position of other organism. Robert Faris, Susan Ennett(2010) carried out a study on 'Adolescent Aggression :The role of peer group status motives, peer aggression and group characteristics'. This study found that recent studies of youth aggression have emphasized the role of network-based peer influence processes. Other scholars have suggested that aggression is often motivated by status concerns. They integrate these two veins of research by considering the effects of peer status motivations on subsequent adolescent aggression, net of their own status motivations, prior aggression, and peer behavior. They also explore different levels at which peer effects may occur, considering the effects of reciprocated and unreciprocated friendships as well as larger, peer groups. They found that aggressive behavior of friends who do not reciprocate the adolescents friendship nomination has particular impact. The average status valuation of peer groups increases their members likelihood of aggression, even after controlling for their own attitudes about status, their friends attitudes, and their friends aggressive behavior. Murray, Kantahyneeh (2008) investigated on 'Aggression and Perceptions of Parenting among Urban Public Middle School Students'. This study explored the relationship between parenting and early adolescent aggression in an urban low-income, predominately African American sample. The first aim was to examine whether aggression-specific parenting practices and parenting style predicted subsequent early adolescent aggression. The second aim was to examine the extent to which parenting style moderated the relationship between aggression-specific parenting practices and subsequent early adolescent aggression. The third aim was to explore the bidirectional relationship between parenting (parenting style and aggression-specific parenting practices) and early adolescent aggression. A total of 209 sixth grade early adolescents attending two Baltimore City middle schools completed questionnaires about their overt and relational aggressive behaviors at two time points. Early adolescents also reported on their perceptions of a parent or guardian's parenting style (support/behavioral control and psychological control) and aggression-specific parenting practices (aggression-avoidance parenting practices and aggression-endorsing parenting practices). Adjusted logistic regression results indicated that early adolescents who reported having a parent who supported aggression avoidance strategies were less likely to engage in overt aggression. Study findings also showed that parent support for aggression avoidance strategies ameliorated the tendency toward

aggressive behavior when parenting styles were at their least protective levels. A bidirectional relationship between parenting and early adolescent aggression was not found; however, Structural Equation Modeling results indicated significant relationships between early adolescent aggression and subsequent parenting. Early adolescent overt and relational aggression predicted declines in parenting practices and parenting styles associated with buffering early adolescents from aggression.

Yoshito Kawabata, Lenneke R.A. Alink, Wan-Ling Tseng, Marinus H.van IJzendoorn, Nicki R.Crick (2011) carried a study on 'Maternal and paternal parenting styles associated with relational aggression in children and adolescents: A conceptual analysis and meta-analytic review'. The findings of this study suggested that dimensions of positive and negative parenting behaviors of mothers and fathers are associated with children's relational aggression and that these associations are- in case of father- contingent upon a number of sampling and procedural characteristics.

Rick Navert(2011) investigated a study on 'Negative parenting style contribute to child aggression'. They explored that mother's harsh parenting affected child emotion regulation more strongly than father's whereas harsh parenting emanating from fathers had a strong effect on child aggression. Father's harsh parenting also affected son more than daughters, whereas there was no gender differential effect with mother's harsh parenting.

## **OBJECTIVES**

To study aggression among male and female adolescents.

To study parenting among male and female adolescents.

To study different modes of parenting among male and female adolescents.

To study relationship between aggression and different modes of parenting among adolescents.

## **HYPOTHESES**

There will be no significant difference in aggression among male and female adolescents.

There will be no significant difference in parenting among male and female adolescents.

There will be no significant difference in different modes of parenting among male and female adolescents.

There will be no significant relationship between aggression and different modes of parenting among adolescents.

### **SAMPLE**

The primary purpose of the research is to discover the principles which have universal application. But to study the whole population in order to arrive at the generalization is impracticable, if not possible. The process of sampling makes it possible to draw valid inferences or generalizations on the basis of careful observation of variables within relatively small portion of population. In the present study, convenient sampling technique was employed. The sample comprised of 200 adolescents from selected schools of district Hoshiarpur. Among these 200 students there were 100 girls and 100 boys.

TABLE-1

List of Schools from where the data has been collected

Sr.No.	Name of the Schools
1.	Government Senior Secondary School, Atarpur
2.	D.A.V Public School, Talwara
3.	D.A.V Senior Secondary School, Tanda
4.	Silver Oak International Public School, Tanda
5.	G.K.S.M Government College, Tanda

### **TOOLS EMPLOYED**

Parenting scale prepared by Dr. R.L.Bharadwaj, Dr. Harish Sharma and A.Garg(1998).

Aggression scale prepared by Dr.R.L.Bharadwaj(2005,2008)

### **STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES**

The following statistical techniques were employed in order to analyze the data

Mean Median and Mode

Standard Deviation

T-test

Correlation

**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

TABLE- 2

Significance of difference in Aggression among male & female adolescents (N=200)

Aggression	Mean	N	Std. deviation	Std. Error Mean	t-Value	Significance
Male	81.8600	100	7.70808	.77081	1.858	.066NS
Female	79.5600	100	9.30007	9.3001		

\*\*\* : Significant at 0.01 level

\*\*\* : Significant at 0.01 level

\*\* : Significant at 0.05 level

NS : Non-significant

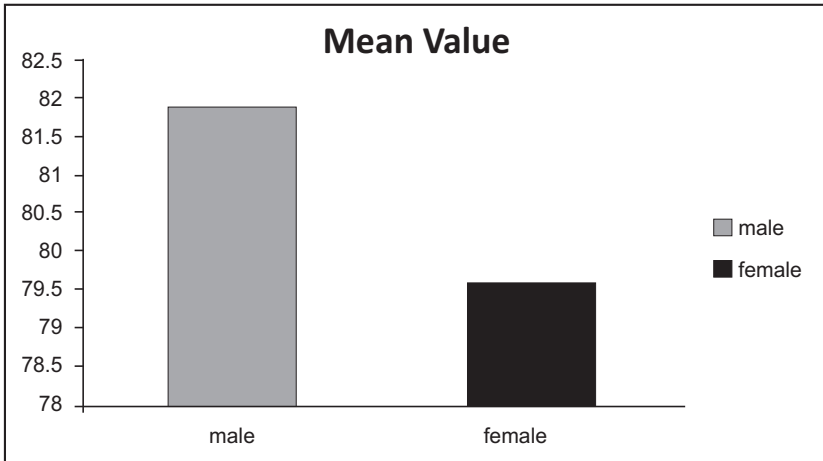


Fig. 1:Graph showing mean scores on aggression among male and female Adolescents

It is evident from table 2 that mean value of aggression of male adolescents is 81.8600 and that of female adolescents is 79.5600. This means aggression among male adolescents is more than that of female adolescents. The calculated t-value is 1.858 which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore the null hypothesis that 'there will be no significant difference in aggression among male and female adolescents' is not rejected.

TABLE-3

Significance of difference in parenting among male and female adolescents (N=200)

Parenting	Mean	N	Std. deviation	Std.Error Mean	t- ValueZ	Significance
Male	7.0420	100	49.39247	4.93925	2.782	.006***
Female	7.2215	100	4.93925	4.95834		

\*\*\* : Significant at 0.01 level

\*\* : Significant at 0.05 level

NS : Non-significant

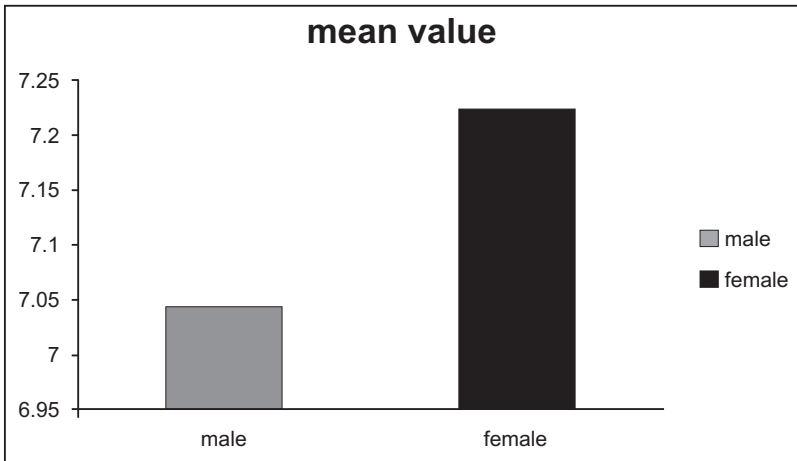


Fig.2: Graph showing mean scores on parenting among male and female adolescents

It is evident from table 3 that mean value of parenting of male adolescents is 7.0420 and that of female adolescents is 7.2215. This means scores on parenting among female adolescents is more than that of male adolescents. The calculated t-value is 2.782 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance. Therefore the null hypothesis that 'there will be no significant difference in parenting among male and female adolescents' is rejected.

TABLE -4

Significance of difference on different modes of parenting among male and female adolescents (N=200)

Modes of Parenting	Gender	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t-Value	Significance
Rejection vs. Acceptance(A)	Male	102.630	100	7.13457	.71346	.696	.488 NS
	Female	101.690	100	11.81054	1.18105		
Carelessness vs. Protection(B)	Male	90.2600	100	13.22427	1.32243	2.691	.008***
	Female	95.2400	100	13.47135	1.34713		
Neglect vs. Indulgence(C)	Male	89.8900	100	14.41022	1.44102	1.252	.214 NS
	Female	92.1400	100	11.15367	1.11537		
Utopian expectation vs. Realism(D)	Male	116.0600	100	12.85413	1.28541	.887	.377 NS
	Female	114.3100	100	14.04013	1.40401		
Lenient standard vs. Moralism(E)	Male	89.8100	100	12.97838	1.29784	2.377	.019**
	Female	93.7500	100	11.53508	1.15351		
Freedom vs. Discipline(F)	Male	95.5500	100	17.40682	1.74068	1.312	.192 NS
	Female	98.5300	100	14.61040	1.46104		
Faulty role expectation vs. Realistic role expectation(G)	Male	78.5700	100	15.43134	1.54313	.571	.570 NS
	Female	79.7100	100	13.64654	1.36465		
Marital conflict vs. Marital adjustment(H)	Male	42.3900	100	8.39660	.83966	.650	.518 NS
	Female	43.0500	100	7.37779	.73778		

\*\*\* : Significant at 0.01 level

\*\* : Significant at 0.05 level

ns : non-significant

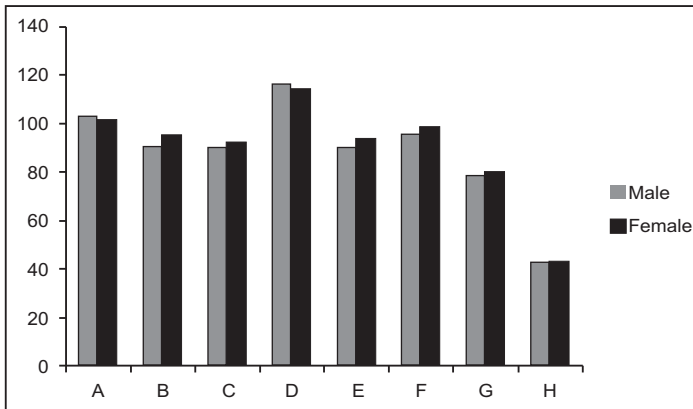


Fig. 3: Graph showing mean scores on different modes of parenting among male and female adolescents



It is evident from table 4 that mean value of A( rejection vs. acceptance mode of Parenting) of male adolescents is 102.6300 and that of female adolescents is 101.6900. This means that scores of male adolescents on A( rejection vs. acceptance mode of Parenting) is more than that of female adolescents. The calculated t-value is 0.696, which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

It is evident from table 4 that mean value of B (Carelessness vs. protection mode of Parenting) of male adolescents is 90.2600 and that of female adolescents is 95.2400. This means that scores of female adolescents on B (Carelessness vs. protection mode of Parenting) is more than that of male adolescents. The calculated t-value is 2.691 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance.

It is evident from table 4 that mean value of C (neglect vs. indulgence mode of Parenting) of male adolescents is 89.8900 and that of female adolescents is 92.1400. This means that scores of female adolescents on C (neglect vs. indulgence mode of Parenting) is more than that of male adolescents. The calculated t-value is 1.252 which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

It is evident from table 4 that mean value of D (utopian expectation vs. realism mode of parenting) of male adolescents is 116.0600 and that of female adolescents is 114.3100. This means that scores of male adolescents on D (utopian expectation vs. realism mode of parenting) is more than that of female adolescents. The calculated t-value is 0.887 which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

It is evident from table 4 that mean value of E (lenient standard vs. moralism mode of parenting) of male adolescents is 89.8100 and that of female adolescents is 93.7500. This means that scores of male adolescents on E (lenient standard vs. moralism mode of Parenting) is more than that of female adolescents. The calculated t-value is 2.377 which is significant at 0.05 level of significance but not significant at 0.01 level.

It is evident from table 4 that mean value of F (freedom vs. discipline mode of Parenting) of male adolescents is 95.5500 and that of female adolescents is 98.5300. This means that scores of female adolescents on F (freedom vs. discipline mode of Parenting) is more than that of male adolescents. The calculated t-value is 1.312 which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

It is evident from table 4 that mean value of G (faulty role expectation vs. realistic role expectation mode of parenting) of male adolescents is 78.5700 and that of female adolescents is 79.7100. This means that scores of female adolescents on G (faulty role expectation vs. realistic role expectation mode of Parenting) is more than that of male adolescents. The calculated t-value is 0.571 which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

It is evident from table 4 that mean value of H (marital conflict vs. marital adjustment mode of parenting) of male adolescents is 42.3900 and that of female adolescents 43.0500. This means that scores of female adolescents on (marital conflict vs. marital adjustment mode of Parenting) is more than that of male adolescents. The calculated t-value is 0.650 which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

Hence the hypothesis 'there will be no significant difference in different modes of parenting among male and female adolescents' is not rejected for the modes 'rejection vs. acceptance', 'neglect vs. indulgence', 'utopian expectation vs. realism', 'freedom vs. discipline', 'faulty role expectation vs. realistic role expectation', 'marital conflict vs. marital adjustment' and is rejected for the modes 'carelessness vs. protection' and 'lenient standard vs. moralism'.

Table 5

Significance of coefficient of correlation between aggression and different modes of parenting (N=200)

Modes of Parenting	Mean	SD	r-value
Rejection vs. Acceptance(A)	102.1600	9.74367	0.069NS
Carelessness vs. Protection (B)	92.5700	13.54677	-0.044NS
Neglect vs. Indulgence (C)	91.0150	12.90221	0.026NS
Utopian expectation vs. Realism (D)	115.1850	13.45496	0.029NS
Lenient standard vs. Moralism (E)	91.7800	12.40528	-0.001NS
Freedom vs. Discipline (F)	97.0400	16.09858	0.088NS
Faulty role expectation vs. Realistic role expectation (G)	79.1400	14.54089	-0.116NS
Marital conflict vs. Marital adjustment (H)	42.7200	7.89069	-0.073NS

Fig.4 :Graph showing correlation between aggression and different modes of parenting among adolescents

Table 5 shows the value of coefficient of correlation between 'Aggression' and 'Rejection vs. Acceptance', mode of parenting among adolescents is 0.069 which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

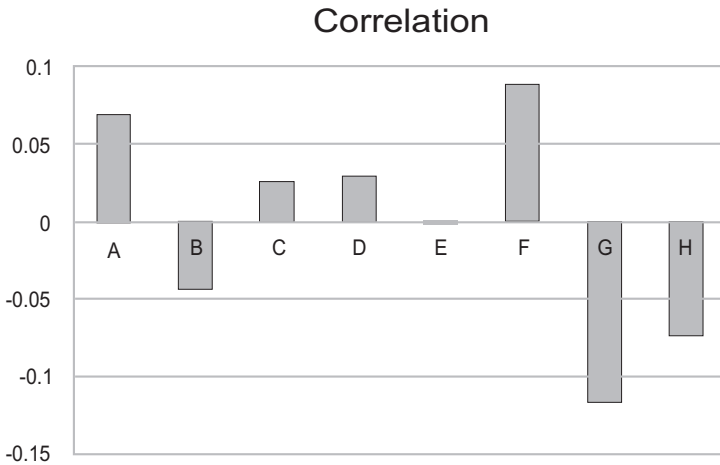


Table 5 shows the value of coefficient of correlation between 'Aggression' and 'Carelessness vs. protection', mode of parenting among adolescents is -0.044, which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

Table 5 shows the value of coefficient of correlation between 'Aggression' and 'Neglect vs. indulgence', mode of parenting among adolescents is 0.026, which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

Table 5 shows the value of coefficient of correlation between 'Aggression' and 'utopian expectation vs. realism', mode of parenting among adolescents is 0.029, which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

Table 5 shows the value of coefficient of correlation between 'Aggression' and 'lenient standard vs. moralism', mode of parenting among adolescents is -0.001, which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

Table 5 shows the value of coefficient of correlation between 'Aggression' and 'freedom vs. discipline', mode of parenting among adolescents is 0.088, which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

Table 5 shows the value of coefficient of correlation between 'Aggression' and 'faulty role expectation vs. realistic role expectation', mode of parenting among adolescents is -0.116, which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

Table 5 shows the value of coefficient of correlation between 'Aggression' and 'marital conflict vs. marital adjustment', mode of parenting among adolescents is -0.073, which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

Hence the hypothesis that 'there will be no significant relationship between aggression and different modes of parenting among adolescents' is not rejected for all the modes of parenting.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

No significant difference is found in the aggression among male and female adolescents.

Significant difference is found in parenting among male and female adolescents.

No significant difference is found on the different modes of parenting among male and female adolescents viz. 'rejection vs. acceptance', 'neglect vs. indulgence', 'utopian expectation vs. realism', 'freedom vs. discipline', 'faulty role expectation vs. realistic role expectation', 'marital conflict vs. marital adjustment' but significant difference is found in the modes 'carelessness vs. protection' and 'lenient standard vs. moralism' of parenting among male and female adolescents.

No significant relationship is found between aggression and different modes of parenting among adolescents.

## **EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

The most outstanding characteristic of any research is that it must contribute something new to the development of the area concerned. Research work will not be considered complete in itself unless and until the research findings are put to some practical use. Parent child relationship is an important area of

study as due to changing social scenario, parents are not meeting the needs and expectations of their adolescent children. They are no more considered to be role model by their adolescent children as children are much more exposed to their moods of socialization and they learn the value system which is not their home value system but value system of society as a whole.

By doing this research my purpose was to tell the parents as to how they are perceived by their children irrespective of what they do for their children as life is 90 percent of how one perceives it. If the child does not perceive your intentions correctly, your relationship with the child is going to suffer. So this work can be a clear guideline for parents of adolescent children.

Secondly, aggression is rooting deeply into society and aggression in adolescents is not an exception. We come across many incidents of aggression ( pertaining to the oneself or others) committed by adolescents. Daily newspapers also reveal increase in aggression among adolescents .Major causes of increase in aggression among youth is increasing materialism, over-competitiveness and over-expectations from society as a whole and adolescents in particular . This research shows that there is need to understand adolescents as they are sensitive and should be treated in a decent way by parents and by society at large.

Guidance and counseling can be provided to adolescents in order to reduce their aggression. Desirable changes should be made by parents to reduce their aggression. Parents and teachers should encourage the children and have affectionate attitude towards them. This research may provide guidelines to parents, teachers and counselors regarding treating aggression of adolescents.

Hence, the present study has multiple implications in the field of psychology and education. The findings of the study can become an important source of information and guidance for the parents and teachers to reduce aggression among the children in a proper way.

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