



A Comparison of Aggression in Female Adolescents with Regard to Parenting Styles in Bandar Abbas

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ABSTRACT: This study was designed and conducted to compare the amount of aggression in female adolescents with regard to the parents' parenting styles in girls' high schools of Bandar Abbas. The study is ex-post facto and its population consists of high school students of Bandar Abbas (6000 students in total) in school year 2012-2013. A sample of 310 students was selected based on stratified random method according to Morgan Table. Parents Behavioural Traits Questionnaire and sc190 were used for gathering data. One-way ANOVA with Scheffé's post hoc test were used to analyse the results and spss statistical software was used to analyse the findings. Results showed that the difference of aggression in four parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, indulgent, and neglectful) was significantly meaningful in confidence level 0.0001. Scheffé's post hoc test showed that the authoritarian group showed the highest amount of aggression while authoritative group showed the least aggression.

Keywords: Aggression, Adolescent, Parenting Style

INTRODUCTION

As social beings, humans maintain their interpersonal relations with other people in a wide scope. This fact may increase the likelihood of interpersonal conflicts as proven through research texts on marital conflicts, aggression in schools, and conflicts and violence at workplace [1].

Human aggression means any behavior of an individual that is intended to directly inflict damage upon another person. In order to control these types of behaviors, the perpetrator should believe that their behavior was intended to inflict damage upon another person leading to provoking avoidant behavior [2].

Aggression is an emotional state accompanied by a tendency to hurt and create pain in other individuals upon which this feeling is associated [3]. In public schools, extreme anger was accompanied by defective performance in educational function, behavioral problems, isolation from mates, and physical and mental problems. This was also associated with adolescents' emotional and mental issues such as pertinacity and negligence, behavioral disorders, depression and anxiety [4]. Adolescence aggression inflicts damage not only upon the victims of aggressive interactions, but also jeopardizes the growth of aggressive adolescents. Research texts have identified the negative consequences of extreme aggression. Aggressive adolescents are more likely to be rejected by their mates than non-aggressive adolescents, commit crimes, manifest antisocial behavior, experience violence at home, tend to be narcissist, have lower levels of education, and get involved in drug abuse [1].

Studies on behavioral disorders have always proven that behavioral disorders are more a result of the way parents interact with child than inheritance and biological factors. Researchers have come to the conclusion that there is a relationship between parents' misbehavior and behavioral disorders of children. This relation has been found very important and representative of the fact that family and particularly parents' behaviors during childhood has a very important role in doing behavioral disorders both in childhood and adulthood. Aggression is among behavioral problems that results from problematic families, unhealthy structure, and inappropriate relationship of parents and children. In such families, a stressful stimulant have always existed like the addiction of father, physical and verbal violence of father and mother and unhealthy relationship of parents with their children, and so on [5].

Rahimi [6] studied the relationship between parenting style and adulthood adaptive behavior. They decided that parenting by child physical punishment has a role in emotional maladaptive behaviors. Wilder et al. [7] studied child raising behaviors of parents and their influence on health and adaptability during adulthood. Results of this study proved that based on the theory of attachment, parents' supportive or rejecting behavior is related with the subjects' adaptability. The type of issues observed in male and female subjects was different to the extent that female subjects with rejecting parents had more adaption problems in their career. Men with such parents had more problems in their interpersonal relations.

Wilder et al. [7] and Small and Luster [8] stated that parents who spend more time on supervising their children tend to have children who are likely to commit risky and inappropriate behaviors. Angrist et al. [9] stated

that parenting styles were effective in reducing adolescents' risky behaviors. The studies by National Institute of Mental Health in the United States show that children who were physically abused and ignored by their parents were more likely to perpetrate violent and aggressive acts [5].

Falahati et al. [10] believe that there is a significantly positive relationship between authoritarian parenting style and problematic behavior. Hajilu et al. [11] came to the conclusion that there is a significantly negative relationship between authoritarian parenting style and children moral development.

Fatinhoor [12] believes that there is significant difference between mothers of children with behavioral disorder and mothers of normal children in applying authoritarian parenting style. In other words, results indicated that there is a significant relationship between behavioral disorders of children and authoritarian parenting style of mother.

In a research Hosseinifard [13] noticed that development of mental disorders in children is significantly related with parenting styles adopted by mothers and fathers. Mothers of students with mental disorders are more likely to use authoritarian or indulgence methods in child growing. However, mothers of students without any mental disorder use logical authoritative parenting styles.

In the etiology of aggression, much importance is given to family factors and parenting styles. Regarding the foregoing, this research seeks to answer the question whether there is a relationship between parenting styles and female adolescents' aggression. Another question is which parenting style causes the least aggression and which may lead to highest degree of aggression.

Due to the social ground of the country where children and adolescents make up the majority of population, it is inevitable to focus the most attention on this part of population. Children and adolescents are the future hopes of our society. The future of our society depends much on how they are forming their behavior today. Regarding the importance of parenting styles in mental health and life of adolescents, this research studies the influence of this aspect of relations. Based on previous researches results, this study was designed and conducted to compare the amount of aggression in female adolescents with regard to the parents' parenting styles in girls' high schools of Bandar Abbas.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research is an ex-post facto study (casual-comparative). The population of research consists of all female high school students of Bandar Abbas (6000 students) in school year 2012-2013. The 310-student sample was selected by random stratified sampling based on Morgan Table. Parents Behavioral Traits Questionnaire and Symptom Checklist-90-revised (SCL0R-90) test were used to gather information .

Parents Behavioral Traits Questionnaire has been developed based on the works of Shifer in Shiraz. It has 77 items to assess various aspects of control-freedom, and affection-rejection in family relations from the viewpoint of subjects. Split-half reliability coefficient of questionnaire has been reported 87% by its developer [14].

SCL-90-R is one of the most applied tools in psychiatric diagnoses. This test includes 90 questions to assess mental symptoms which are reported by respondents. In Natalie's study the reliability coefficient of all aspects of this test has been estimated between 78% and 90% using retest method [15].

In this research one-way analysis of variance and Scheffee post hoc test were used for the analysis of results and spss for the analysis of findings.

RESULTS

According to the table, 32.91% of individuals have authoritative parenting style, 32.3% have indulgent style, 11.9% ignorant style, and 22.9% authoritative style. Table 2 shows the mean of scores on scales of aggression (2.33), depression (2.09), anxiety (2.01), and paranoid thoughts (2.02) were higher than other scores in the said scale.

Hypothesis: there is a difference in girls' aggression in view of four parenting styles. Results are mentioned in table 3. With regard to the significance level 0.0001 and $F=94.24$, the extent of aggression is different in parenting styles. The results of differences are provided in table 4. The difference of aggression mean in scales of authoritative (3.23), neglectful (1.84), authoritarian (1.11), and indulgent (2.36) has a significant difference in level 0.0001.

Table 1. Frequency distribution and percent of individuals in parenting styles

Statistical indicator of parenting styles	Frequency	Percent
Authoritative	102	32.9
Ignorant	100	32.3
Indulgent	37	11.9
Authoritative	71	22.9
Total	310	100.0

Table 2. Descriptive indicators of scores on Aggression in SCL-90

Indicators	Descriptive indicators			
Variable	Mean	Standard deviation	Minimum score	Maximum score
Aggression	2.33	1.04	0.00	4.00

Table 3. Summary of the results of one-way analysis of variance on aggression scale in four parenting styles

Indicators	SS	DF	MS	F	Sig.	
Aggression	Among groups	160.93	3	53.64	94.24	0.0001
	Inside groups	174.18	306	0.57		
Total	335.11	309				

Table 4. Results of Scheffee Test for Aggression in Four Parenting Styles

Scale	Mean	Parenting style	1	2	3	4
Aggression	3.23	Authoritative		*0.0001	*0.0001	*0.0001
	1.84	Ignorant	*0.0001		*0.0001	*0.0001
	1.11	Authoritarian	*0.0001	*0.0001		*0.0001
	2.36	Indulgent	*0.0001	*0.0001	*0.0001	

DISCUSSION

Results showed that there is a significant difference in the four parenting styles as regards girls' aggression. The differences varied in various styles, and were more evident in authoritative style (3.23) and authoritarian style (1.11) than other styles. Therefore this hypothesis is confirmed. Esfandiari [16] believes that children with ignorant parents often act with aggression and impulsions. This is particularly true about boys. Farajzadeh [5] is of the idea that there is no significant relationship between discipline variables with fancying, shyness, carelessness, deception, burglary, insulting, and conflicts of parents. But there is a significant relationship between depression, aggression, accountability, seclusion, lying, and conflicts of parents. To define this finding based on the theoretical fundamentals, it can be stated that authoritarian parents suffer more aggression than other groups. This is likely because they impose strict regulations and expect their children to accept them without any justification. They will resort to punishment if the children do not abide by their rules. A very important finding of this research is the highlighted role of authoritative parenting style in preventing adolescent aggression. Authoritative parents value both autonomous behavior and discipline. On the other side, authoritative parents have more adaptable children. Higher adaptability in children helps eliminate the problems associated to adolescence such as identity crisis, issues with mates, problems related to educational progress and motivation, and the likes.

It is recommended that parents should be taught the proper ways of dealing with children, put more stress on the role of awareness and literacy in growing the children. Parents should have acceptable and logical expectations according to the capacity of their children. This will increase self-esteem and self-image.

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