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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Study on the Relationship between Aggression and Social Support among Late Adolescent Boys

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Abstract

Background: Aggression may be defined as harmful behavior which violates social conventions and which may include deliberate intent to harm or injure another person or object. Social support is defined as “verbal and nonverbal communication between recipients and providers that reduces uncertainty about the situation, the self, the other, or the relationship, and functions to enhance a perception of personal control in one’s life experience”.

Materials and Methods: The major objective of the study is to analyze the level of aggression among late adolescent boys and to know the level of emotional social support among late adolescent boys. The study is carried out in Government Polytechnic College, Nattakom, Kottayam, Kerala, India. A descriptive study method is used with a sample size of 60 boys with age group 15-19 as previous research studies prove that aggression is higher in boys. Tools used are Buzz Perry scale for aggression and Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support.

Results: The study has revealed significant impact of aggression among late adolescent boys. The level of social support from family is found to be lesser.

Conclusion: This opens up ground to conduct more research in this field.

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INTRODUCTION

Aggression may be defined as harmful behavior which violates social conventions and which may include deliberate intent to harm or injure another person or object. (Bandura, 1973, cited in Suris et al., 2004). Human aggression can be manifested towards self or others can be direct or indirect, physical or emotional, active or passive and verbal and nonverbal. Aggression directed towards others can be in the form of physical injury/ harm, psychological pain, destruction of property and verbal abuse. The causes of human aggression are social, cultural, environmental, role modeling, psychological and biological. All these factors may operate independently or in combinations resulting in aggression.

Social support is defined as “verbal and nonverbal communication between recipients and providers that reduces uncertainty about the situation, the self, the other, or the relationship, and functions to enhance a perception of personal control in one’s life experience”. Emotional social support is the social support that meets an individual’s emotional or affective needs (Albrecht and Adelman, 1987). It was found that conflicts and attitudes of extreme nature on the part of parents are the significant cause for maladjustment in the adolescents. (Shah and Lakhera, 1986). Adolescents are less likely to feel depressed or anxious if the peer group provides emotional support

(Buhrmester, 1992). It has also been discovered that amount of social support impacts levels of aggressiveness (Nooney & Woodrum, 2002).

According to social learning theory of Bandura, human beings are not born with a large array of aggressive responses at their disposal. They must acquire these in the much the same way that they acquire other complex forms of social behaviour. Aggression is influenced by many different factors relating to the words and deeds of other people, personality traits and situational factors.

The World Health Organization defines adolescence as the period from 10-19 years of age. It is the period characterized by physical, psychological and social changes and generally it is classified into two: early adolescence between 10-14 years and late adolescence between 15-19 years. (WHO, 1998). In later adolescence (16-19) the body turns to adult form, while they like to get identified noticeably with advanced ideas and opinions (Mehta et.al., 1998). Stanley Hall denoted this period as one of "Storm and Stress" and, according to him, conflict at this developmental stage is normal and not unusual. (Muuss, 1975., Newman and Newman, 1979). Males are generally more likely than females both to perform aggressive actions and to serve as the target for such behaviour (Bogard, 1990; Harris, 1992; 1994).

According to the study conducted by NIMHANS, eight out of 10 youth in the 15-26 years age group are aggressive. Indore is the in first position with a whopping 91.67 percent. Jammu follows with 83.08 percent and Kochi is in the third position with 79.96 percent (Dr. Manoj Kumar Sharma and Dr. P Marimuthu, 2013). Several studies have shown that children who have witnessed family violence may be more likely to approve of the use of violence for conflict resolution (Carlson, 1991; Jaffe et al., 1986), and are more likely to display violent behaviour themselves (Dauvergne and Johnson, 2001; Singer et al., 1988).

Previous researches and studies established the fact that adolescence is not without problems. It has already been labeled as a stage of stress and anxiety. This study is adopted in the scenario of increasing rate of aggression among adolescence especially boys in the context of news relating to aggression and violence among adolescence. The study has chosen Government Poly Technic College, Kottayam, Kerala, India which is comparatively higher in its rate of aggressive adolescence and news regarding their violence and agitation.

Methodology

The major aim of the study is to study the relationship between aggression and social support among late adolescent boys. The major objectives of the study are 1) to analyze the level of aggression among late adolescent boys and 2) to know the level of emotional social support among late adolescent boys. The study is based on the hypothesis that there is a negative relationship between aggression and social support among late adolescent boys. A Descriptive Research design is used for the study. Adolescent boys of age group 15-19 years of Government Polytechnic, Nattakom, Kottayam, Kerala, India of 60 numbers are selected by simple random sampling. Tools used for data collection 1) Socio demographic data sheet 2) Buzz Perry scale for aggression and 3) Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (Zimet, Dahlem, Zimet & Farley, 1988).

Results and discussions

The group had a total of 60 male respondents of 15-19 years. Buss Perry aggression questionnaire and Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support was applied and measured using the particular scale. The analysis of socio demographic data had shown that the group is comparable in various aspects like age, family type, socioeconomic status, marital status of parents, job of parents and nature of parenting. All the samples were from Kerala and same local language and all of them were from Municipality region. The age of the respondents indicated that 45% of the respondents belong to the age group of 19 and 38.3% belong to the age group of 18 and 10% belong to the age group of 17 and 6.7% belong to the age group of 16. The type of family indicated that majority of the respondents belong to nuclear family. A very low percentage of respondents 3.3% belong to extended family. The socioeconomic status indicated that 65% of the respondents belong to APL group and 35% belong to BPL group. Marital status indicated that parents of the majority of respondents 88.3% are married and live together and 6.7% are widow/widower and 5.0 % are separated. Job status of parents of respondents showed that 76.7% have only one person working in the family and 23.3% have both parents working. Nature of parenting showed that majority of respondents 58.3% have friendly parenting and 25% have balance between both strict and friendly parenting and 16.7% have strict parenting.

Analysis of the level of aggression shown that there is a significant difference (fig 1.1) in the item 'Urge to strike others' and it is higher among the age group 17 i.e. 75 % ($\alpha=0.010$, $p<0.05$). The analysis of the item 'Shows violence to

protect rights’ (fig 1.2) shown that there is a significant difference and it is higher among the age group 19 i.e.60 % ($\alpha=.017, p<.05$). The analysis of the item ‘Find disagreeing with others’ (fig 1.3) shown that there is a significant difference and it is higher among the age group 19 i.e.48.1 % ($\alpha=.004, p<.05$). The analysis of the item ‘Fly off without reason’ (fig1.4) shown that it is higher among the age group 19 i.e.100% and there is a significant difference ($\alpha=.038,p<.05$). The analysis of the item ‘Feel like a raw deal out of life’ (fig1.5) shown that it is higher among the age group 18 i.e.60% and there is a significant difference($\alpha=.010,p<.05$). The analysis of the item ‘Others seem to get break’ (fig 1.6) shown that it is higher among the age group 19 i.e.70.6% and there is a significant difference ($\alpha=.013,p<.05$). The analysis of the item ‘Friends talk behind back ‘(fig 1.7) shown that it is higher among the age group 18 i.e. 66.7% and there is a significant difference ($\alpha=.046,p<.05$). Analysis of the level of social support shown in case of the item ‘Helping family’(fig 1.8) that there is a significant difference and it is higher among the age group 19 i.e. 70%($\alpha=.048,p<.05$).

Fig 1.1

		1		2		3		4		5		CHI VALUE	SIG	DF
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%			
Urge to strike others	1	0	0	0	0	3	12	11	44	11	44			
	2	0	0	2	25	0	0	4	50	2	25			
	3	0	0	0	0	2	28.6	1	14.3	4	57.1			
	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	50	1	50	34.72	.010	18
	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	25	9	75			
	6	0	0	2	50	1	25	1	25	0	0			
	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	100	0	0			

Fig 1.2

		1		2		3		4		5		CHI VALUE	SIG	DF
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%			
Shows violence to protect rights	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25	3	75			
	2	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0			
	3	0	0	0	0	1	20	3	60	1	20			
	4	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	32.97	.017	18
	5	0	0	1	4	1	4	13	52	10	40			
	6	0	0	1	11.1	2	22.2	2	22.2	4	44.4			
	7	0	0	1	6.7	1	6.7	4	26.7	9	60			

Fig 1.3

		1		2		3		4		5		CHI VALUE	SIG	DF
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%			
Find disagreeing with others	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	2	0	0	0	0	1	33.3	0	0	2	66.7			
	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	66.7	1	33.3			
	4	0	0	0	0	1	50	0	0	1	50	33.33	0.004	15
	5	0	0	0	0	1	6.2	7	43.8	8	50			
	6	0	0	0	0	3	11.1	11	40.7	13	48.1			
	7	0	0	4	44.4	0	0	3	33.3	2	22.2			

Fig 1.4

		1		2		3		4		5		CHI VALUE	SIG	DF
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%			
Fly off without reason	1	0	0	1	3.3	4	13.3	15	50	10	33.3			
	2	0	0	1	8.3	1	8.3	3	25	7	58.3			
	3	0	0	0	0	1	10	3	30	6	60			

	4	0	0	2	66.7	0	0	1	33.3	0	0	26.01	.038	15
	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100			
	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25	3	75			
	7	0	00	0	000	00	00	0	0	00	0			

Fig 1.5

		1		2		3		4		5		CHI VALUE	SIG	DF
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%			
Feel like a raw deal out of life	1	0	0	0	0	1	7.1	7	50	6	42.9			
	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	40	6	60			
	3	0	0	0	0	3	27.3	2	18.2	6	54.5	34.85	0.010	18
	4	0	0	0	0	1	12.5	2	25	5	62.5			
	5	0	0	1	10	0	0	6	60	3	30			
	6	0	0	1	25	1	25	1	25	1	25			
	7	0	0	2	66.7	0	0	1	33.3	0	0			

Fig 1.6

		1		2		3		4		5		CHI VALUE	SIG	DF
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%			
Others seem to get break	1	0	0	0	0	1	16.7	2	33.3	3	50			
	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	80	1	20			
	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	40	3	60			
	4	0	0	1	5.6	4	22.2	8	44.4	5	27.8	33.91	0.013	18
	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	29.4	12	70.6			
	6	0	0	2	25	1	12.5	2	25	3	37.5			
	7	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0			

Fig 1.7

		1		2		3		4		5		CHI VALUE	SIG	DF
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%			
Friends talk behind back	1	0	0	1	7.7	1	7.7	4	30.8	7	53.8			
	2	0	0	0	0	2	16.7	3	25	7	58.3			
	3	0	0	1	6.7	1	6.7	4	26.7	9	60	25.31	.046	15
	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	75	1	25			
	5	0	0	0	0	1	8.3	8	66.7	3	25			
	6	0	0	2	50	1	25	1	25	0	0			
	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			

Fig 1.8

		1		2		3		4		5		CHI VALUE	SIG	DF
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%			
Helping family	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	2	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0			
	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	100			
	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	66.7	1	33.3	25.17	0.048	15
	5	0	0	1	10	2	20	0	0	7	70			
	6	0	0	0	0	2	13.3	7	46.7	6	40			
	7	0	0	3	10.7	1	3.6	14	50	10	35.7			

Discussion

All the samples (100%) are adolescent males as aggression is higher among male adolescents.

All the respondents (100%) are from Municipality region

The age of the respondents shows that majority of them belong to the age group of 18 or 19, most of them completed higher secondary education.

The type of family indicates that majority of the respondents belong to nuclear family and the rate of it is comparable.

The socioeconomic status indicates that majority of the respondents belong to APL group. This shows the financial mixture in the population.

Majority of the respondents are with parents. There are also cases of widowed families. The number of separated families is very less which reflects the sustained family living.

Job status of parents of respondents shows that majority has only one person working in the family or not accepts the employability of women in their family.

Nature of parenting shows that majority of respondents have friendly parenting. This shows the parental care.

The analysis of aggression among the respondents shows that significant changes are observed in specific items like 'Urge to strike others', 'Shows violence to protect rights', 'Find disagreeing with others', 'Fly off without reason', 'Feel like a raw deal out of life', 'Others seem to get break', 'Friends talk behind back'. In rest of the items difference is not significant.

The analysis of social support among the respondents shows that significant changes are observed in specific item like 'Helping family'.

Conclusion

The study has ventured into applying already researched and navel topic of the current genera. This is done by choosing aggression among adolescents in our state where similar initiatives have not come up earlier. The limitations of the study were that the study was conducted to a limited number of samples and several questions in the scale of social support significance are missing. Suggestions for future are the study need to be extended more into large number of sample.

The area needs to involve more participation from all sectors including health as well as educational sectors and ensure reachability among the vulnerable. A collaborate effort of school social workers, teachers and parents are essential.

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