

Positive-negative outcomes and correlates of aggression

In adolescents



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Certificate of Approval

This is to certify that I have examined this copy of a Master's thesis written by Mehdi Abbas Kazmi and have found that it is complete and satisfactory in all respects, and that any all revisions required have been made. It is accepted by the faculty of the department of Psychology, School of Social Sciences & Humanities, University of the Management and Technology, Lahore in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of M.Sc in Psychology.

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Declaration

I, Mr. Mehdi Abbas Kazmi, ID No. 13002142005, student of M.Sc in the subject of Psychology, session 2013-2015, hereby declare that the material printed in this thesis titled “Positive-Negative Outcomes and Correlates of Aggression in Adolescents” is original work and has not been published or submitted as research work, thesis or publication in any form in any university, research institution etc in Pakistan or abroad. This work is part of research projected initiated by Mr. Sultan Shujja and Mr. Mehdi Abbas Kazmi opted it as M.Sc Psychology thesis.

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Abstract

The current study investigated the relationship between self esteem, academic achievement, aggression and its sub scales among adolescents with an age range of 18 to 21 years. The study comprised two phases. In the first place, high and low aggression and its subscales were identified and observed among adolescents. The correlation between the subscales of aggression named physical aggression, verbal aggression, anger and hostility was found with its positive and negative outcomes on self-esteem. In the second place positive-negative outcomes were observed comparing the correlates named gender and academic achievements. Bus and Perry Aggression Questionnaire (BPAQ) scale and The Rosenberg Self- Esteem (RSE) scale were administered on a sample of 152 randomly selected university students comprising boys and girls. Results revealed that aggression and its subscales were found to be significantly and positively correlated with each other whereas, hostility was found negatively correlated with self-esteem. GPA showed no significance with any of the study variable. Furthermore, individuals with low self-esteem were found more hostile and individuals with high self-esteem were moderately high on verbal aggression. No difference was found between high and low self-esteem groups on the rest of the study variables.

Keywords: aggression, self-esteem, adolescents, social aggression, gender, academic achievemen

Introduction

One of the most studied behavioral responses within the psychological literature is aggression. Aggressive behaviors have different forms like physical aggression, verbal and relationship manipulative insults, and non verbal expressions of scornful attitude. Initially, physical aggression was examined extensively in the past; indirect aggression or non physical aggression received attention of researchers in recent times (Underwood, Galen & Paquette, 2001). The outcomes of socially aggressive behaviors can be positive as well as very negative and harmful, maladaptive and hurting both to the victim and the aggressor at the same time (Heilbron&Prinstein, 2008).

Aggression is defined as the actions in social interaction to harm others intentionally through physical abuse, verbal abuse, emotionally or by non verbal cues and the victim must also perceive it in harmful or hurtful way. It is noted that aggression has two common features i.e., the behavior is harmful intentionally and secondly, it should be perceived hurtful by the victim (Archer & Coyne, 2005). Aggression is always associated with numerous social and psychological problems whether overt or relational in nature such as anxiety, conduct and delinquent behaviors. High and low self esteem is also associated with the intensity of aggression (Thomaes, Bushman, Stegge & Olthof, 2008).